

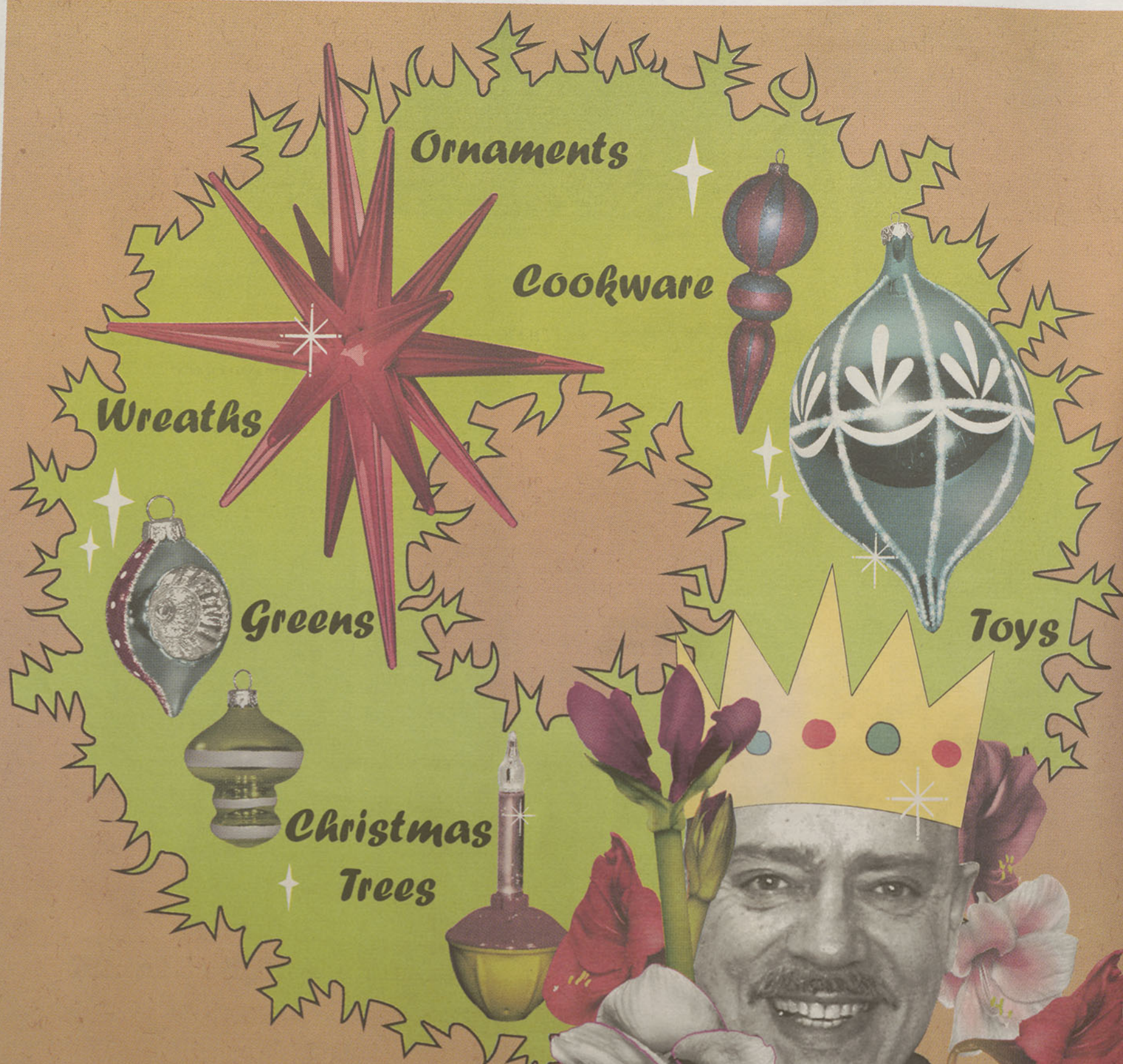
Ann Arbor Observer

December 2004

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26

Saturday 2pm

American
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27

Sunday 9pm

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Pollyanna

28

Monday 8pm

Magic
Moments

29

Tuesday 7:30am

Arthur

30

Wednesday 9:30pm

Eric
Clapton

Great
Performances

1

Thursday 9pm

Soundstage
Tribute

GEORGE JONES

DECEN

2

Friday 10pm

Haley Westenra

Great
Performances

3

Saturday 4:30pm

Identity

Theft

4

Sunday 8pm

Rock 'n' Roll

Ed Sullivan

5

Monday 8pm

Visions of

Germany

6

Tuesday 7pm

NEWS
HOUR

with Jim Lehrer

7

Wednesday 8pm

Great
Josh Grobin
Performances

8

Thursday 10pm

Loretta
Lynn

9

Friday 10pm

Chris Isaak

Soundstage

10

Saturday 8pm

Dionne
Warwick

11

Sunday 12pm

The American
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Marathon
BROADWAY

12

Monday 8am

SESAME STREET

13

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14

Wednesday 11am

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15

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The Ann Arbor Observer (ISSN #0192-5717) is published thirteen times a year, once each month plus a special issue in July (the City Guide), by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Telephone: (734) 769-3175. USPS #454-470. Member Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI.

Subscriptions: \$20 for one year, \$35 for two years. Write to the Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Telephone (734) 769-3175. Fax (734) 769-3375. E-mail: subscribe@aaobserver.com

Manuscripts: The Observer welcomes freelance material. Send manuscripts to Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. E-mail: editor@arborweb.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. ©2004 by the Ann Arbor Observer Company. All rights reserved. No portion of the Ann Arbor Observer may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2004

vol. 29 • no. 4

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Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Congolese art exhibit *Art of the Lega* at the UMMA, and jazz big band Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.

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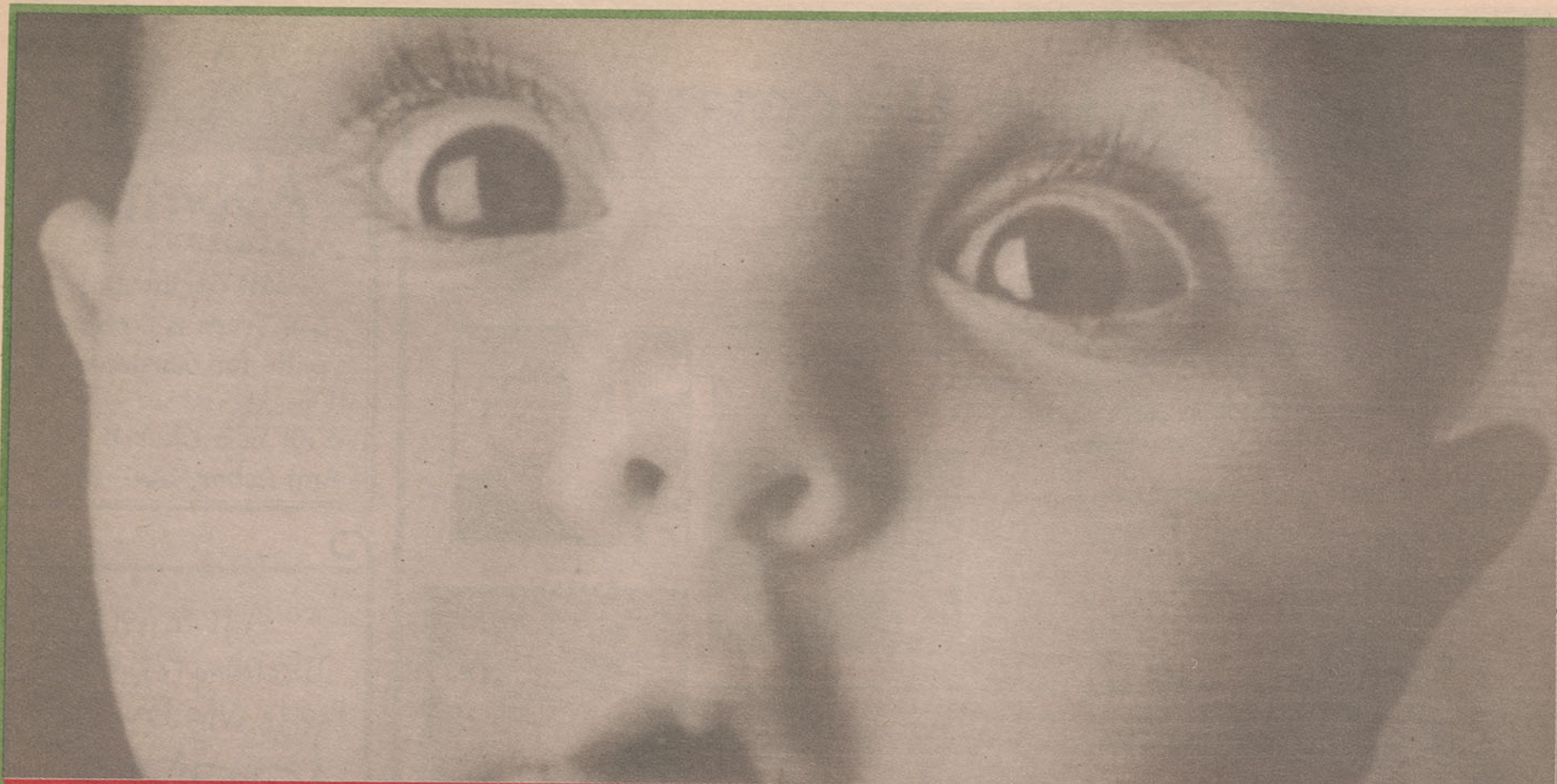
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Red and blue Wash-

tenaw: The Democratic Party may have lost the November presidential election, but it continues to gain ground in Wash-

tenaw County. In 1980, 52 percent of the county's major-party voters supported Ronald Reagan; this year, George W. Bush got just 35 percent of the two-party vote. As predicted, Ann Arbor mayor John Hieftje easily won reelection, his usual landslide barely dented by the *Ann Arbor News's* endorsement of his GOP opponent, Jane Lummi. In nearby townships, Democrats took control of Scio and solidified their hold on Pittsfield. In Ann Arbor Township, Democrat Rena Basch easily ousted GOP clerk Catherine Braun. Outcounty challengers who ran against Republicans as independents, however, generally went down to defeat. That's probably explainable by one fact: 48,972 Washtenaw County voters marked a straight Democratic Party ticket this year—28 percent of the total turnout, and nearly twice as many as the 26,687 who voted straight Republican.



Reading and writing:

In November, Ann Arbor was the first stop on the first annual *New Yorker* College Tour. What's the connection

between our midwestern town and the hugely popular magazine that covers the city of New York, as well as the rest of the world, with some of the sharpest writing around? "We picked Ann Arbor because of its highly regarded M.F.A. program, and we wanted a midwestern school in the first go-round," explains tour spokesperson Naomi Starkman. A more metaphysical explanation emerged in the questions audience members asked after the presentations: many Ann Arborites fancy themselves writers. Dressed in scholarly jackets and finely printed scarves, people practically flew to the microphones and threw out one technical question after another, furiously jotting the answers into tiny notebooks. Tour director Rhonda Sherman cautions against concluding too much from that—but does allow that she heard "many questions from *would-be* fiction writers at the fiction panel, and many questions from *would-be* journalists at the journalism panel."

Farmers' Market redux: Last summer, the city's proposal to remodel its open-air market (Then & Now, August) stirred up a hornet's nest of opposition. Now the parks department and Johnson Hill Land Ethics have come back with a revised plan. Like the previous proposal, it eliminates the short middle arm known as "dead man's alley" while extending the market's south arm to Fourth Avenue. But in the new version, the vacant lot on Fourth would become a covered pavilion, with retractable



red canopies mounted on either side. Once vendors set up on market days, the canopies would be unfurled over the driveways leading into the market to create a row of temporary stalls. "It will be like the awnings in old street markets in New York City that vendors rolled down when they opened," says Jaime Brown of JHLE. "It will announce to people driving by on Fourth Avenue that the market is open." It also would create the circular layout recommended by consultant David O'Neil. But growers hated the first design, which they saw as an attempt by outsiders to take over "their" market. More than 750 people signed petitions arguing that the city should just extend "dead man's alley" through to Fourth. Now a group called Friends of the Market is mobilizing to fight the new plan, too.

Postage premium:

Miniature greeting cards are selling by the case in local gift shops and bookstores—but those teensy little cards cost extra to mail. Postal worker Cindy Okray, at the Liberty Street post office, warns that any card or letter less than three and a half inches high or five inches wide will cost 49¢ cents to mail—a surcharge of 12¢ over the regular first-class rate. Okray says that the rule has been in effect for years but still takes many postal customers by surprise. "Most are familiar with the surcharge on oversize letters, but the same applies to undersize, too," Okray explains. "The problem is that the cards are too small for the electronic sorters and require hand sorting, which slows delivery down." She says that most card companies have begun to warn senders about the surcharge on their envelopes, usually in the spot where the stamp goes—"but some still don't seem to catch it." So what about all the cards that people sent in the past without the added postage? "Oh, *somebody* paid," says Okray, "usually the recipient—although most senders don't learn that—and sometimes even your kind and generous postman takes it out of pocket."

What does it cost? \$65—Chris Triola "Fabric of Life" scarf, at Forma gallery; at

UPFRONT

least half of all revenues go to support the Hunger Project

... \$175—ticket to the Michigan Theater's December 8 fund-raiser for its "Legends of Rock 'n' Roll"

series (includes dinner and premium seating for a concert by blues legend B. B. King) ... \$10—gift needed to buy breakfast for ten children at Perry Nursery School ... \$150—gift to support a one-hour class instructing ten single moms in budgeting and pay negotiation, from the Homeless Empowerment Relationship Organization (HERO) ... \$50—gift to provide one day's care in an accredited day-care center for a poor family, through the Child Care Network ... \$720—gift to support a child's two-week stay at YMCA Camp Al-Gon-Quian ... \$1 million—gift to fund the entire gymnasium complex at the new YMCA building on Huron.

Playing old: Several days a month, Pat van Bonn receives the news that she's been diagnosed with cancer. Yet every day, she goes home in good health.

As one of about 100 "standardized patient instructors" at the U-M Medical School, the retired nursing teacher plays the part of a patient, testing future doctors' ability to provide advice, care, and understanding. To become eighty-five-year-old "Jeannette Gerhard," van Bonn adds years to her own age. She buttons her sweater incorrectly and wears a hat to disguise messy hair—signs that although "Gerhard" insists she's fine and ready to leave the hospital, she may no longer be able to care for herself. To pass van Bonn's exam, students must pick up on these clues and ask detailed questions. Painfully aware that the standardized patient instructor is testing them, some students develop stage fright. But "the better the SPI, the sooner students forget about the situation," van Bonn says. By the end of the half-hour session, she often has to remind them that she is not *really* Mrs. Gerhard.

Service club blues: Jim Krick, eighty-one, recently left Ann Arbor's Eastern Kiwanis, which he'd joined in 1947; he says that dwindling membership had gotten to the point where he hesitated to invite a

speaker "to come and talk to four people."

Krick remembers when the group had at least two dozen active members. His club's problems aren't unique: nationally, membership in service organizations has been on the wane for the past fifteen years. We surveyed ten Ann Arbor service groups, and found that six have experienced declines ranging from slight to significant. Jerry Kelly says the Breakfast Optimist Club has dropped from sixty-five members when he joined in 1981 to about thirty-five now. The downtown Rotary Club, traditionally a magnet for the town's movers and shakers, remains robust, with a membership of almost 300—but like the other groups, it, too, is finding it harder to recruit young members, especially those in busy dual-career marriages. The Thrift Shop made its volunteering requirements more flexible to attract working women—and saw its membership pick up.

Mandala maker:

Ruthie Basham, a 2001 graduate of the U-M School of Art and Design, has found her niche in spiritual art. Basham specializes in personal mandalas—"visual prayers," she explains, "composed of vivid colors and symbols." Customers come to her for sad and happy reasons: a woman who'd been diagnosed with ovarian cancer wanted something to remind herself to enjoy her life, while another bought a mandala for her daughter's bat mitzvah. Basham herself has taken various spiritual paths, including the Kabbalah (a form of Jewish mysticism) and Buddhism. Her mandalas, done primarily in oil-based colored pencil, start at about \$425, but customers figure they're buying more than art: Basham's website (ruthiebasham.com) describes her as "a facilitator for the sacred symbols, colors, and energies which flow through her to assist the recipients of each mandala."

Overheard: On the sunny Monday morning after the Northwestern game, a group of first-graders lined up outside of Dicken Elementary waiting for school to start. The boy at the head of the line, decked out in a U-M hat and gloves, started singing "The Victors," thrusting out his arm to simulate the trombone part. The boy behind him asked him what song that was. Before the singer could answer, a small voice came from farther down the line: "He's singing the National Anthem!"



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LAND USE

Greenway Ho!

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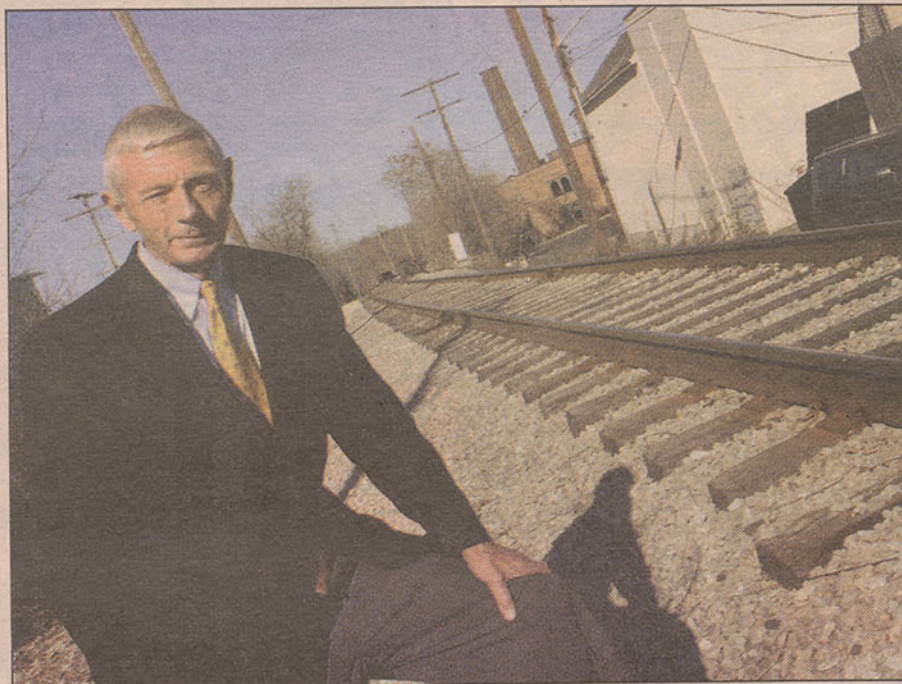
Joe O'Neal is imagining things. What's more, the builder of Kerrytown, Ashley Mews, and the U-M's underground football locker rooms is inviting citizens to dream along with him—to picture a wide swath of green spaces, paths, scenic filtering ponds, and a reconstructed Allen Creek meandering along the western edge of downtown. The envisioned megapark would run north from the U-M Golf Course to the Huron River, providing a "greenway" antidote to increasing residential density downtown.

"Imagine New York City without Central Park," O'Neal told the Old West Side Association's fall meeting on October 28. "Beginning with the greenway, we've got to turn our city inside out."

The rapt audience of nearly 100 people—more than four times the usual turnout—was the largest crowd to date to hear O'Neal's extreme interpretation of an idea that's been kicked around since the 1960s. While his granddaughter played at his feet, O'Neal spoke of launching a fifty-year plan for the greenway, beginning with nonprofit land trusts, as the solution to a problematic assortment of private and public properties in the floodway and floodplain of Allen Creek. Named for Ann Arbor cofounder John Allen, the west-side stream was buried in a storm drain in the 1920s. Acknowledging that major problems confront any effort to unearth it—such as pollution and inconsistent water flow—O'Neal nonetheless seemed confident that momentum for his dream could grow, along with livability and property values in adjacent neighborhoods.

O'Neal began his talk by emphasizing that two different groups are promoting the greenway—and that he is not one of those who opposed building a parking structure at First and William. But that camp was also well represented, because it includes some OWSA officers and residents. Co-organizer Margaret Wong describes the "Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway" as an "advocacy group" rooted in the campaign for a park instead of a parking structure at the corner.

Wong belongs to O'Neal's informal but very well-connected Allen Creek Green-



Central Park on the tracks? Builder Joe O'Neal envisions a parks corridor that would follow the Ann Arbor Railroad line through Ann Arbor's west side.

way study-work group. It brings together prominent architects and planners who individually are involved in the Allen Creek Watershed Group, the Washtenaw Land Trust, and city departments.

Amy Kuras, the city landscape architect and park planner who patched together the splendid new trail around Argo Pond, sees her role in O'Neal's group as a natural extension of both city plans and her job. But while O'Neal dreams big and talks about getting the Ann Arbor Railroad out of the greenway's way, Kuras focuses on smaller gains. She

and developer Peter Allen (another member of O'Neal's group) met in early November with a representative of the railroad to talk about easements for establishing a walking and biking path near its tracks, which closely follow the course of the buried creek. "You start with a spine [the pathway], look for places to connect with, and come up with a greenway," Kuras says. She hopes the Ann Arbor Railroad will be easier to work with than Norfolk Southern was when she was planning the Argo loop. "Getting that easement took two years," she says.

Another member of O'Neal's group, Ray Detter, chairs the Downtown Development Authority Citizens' Advisory Council. Detter says his group favors a greenway but doesn't support the use of the First and William lot solely for a park,

because putting a structure there would allow the city to redevelop the decaying First-Washington structure and the surface lot at William and Ashley. Detter cites an example of how an ecologically friendly greenway ideal can coexist with development: the new Ann Arbor YMCA on Huron will be less than

half as impervious to rainfall and runoff as the building and parking lot that previously occupied that site.

After Margaret Wong made a presentation at a Sierra Club meeting, cochair Doug Cowherd jumped on the bandwagon. Cowherd, who led a highly effective negative campaign for the Ann Arbor Greenbelt, appears to be already testing similar themes for the greenway. Despite Joe O'Neal's leadership in the effort, he told the Ann Arbor News that "it could well be the biggest battle between developers and Ann Arbor residents that we've seen."

Parks planner Amy Kuras and developer Peter Allen met in early November with a representative of the Ann Arbor Railroad to talk about easements for establishing a walking and biking path near its tracks, which closely follow the course of Allen Creek.



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EDUCATION

Selling Greenhills

The north-side college-prep school has launched its most aggressive marketing campaign ever.

Nestled on thirty acres off Earhart Road, the private school is trying to reverse a recent dip in enrollment from almost 500 to 454 students in grades 6-12. Tony Paulus, head of the school, has hired his first marketing person, and Greenhills is holding regional open houses in places like Brighton and Monroe. Paulus also is scouting out Ann Arbor's public high schools, "just to get a feel" for the competition.

It's no coincidence that Greenhills opened in 1968, the same year the U-M closed University High. Its founders wanted a school that would prepare their kids for the country's top colleges. They worried that the Ann Arbor Public Schools might not be fit for the task—at the time, the public schools were excited about alternative education and so overcrowded that the city's lone high school was running double shifts.

The public schools have long since reasserted their academic strength. Greenhills must also respond to the rise of charter schools and increased competition

from other independent schools—one Greenhills trustee jealously noted Gabriel Richard's new campus. Paulus also says that lingering economic fallout from 9/11 has made it harder for parents to cough up the \$14,670 annual tuition.

Ads for Greenhills emphasize its small classes (about fifteen students); its many National Merit semifinalists (25 percent of the class of 2005); and its astronomical percentage of kids who get into top colleges (89 percent of last year's class were admitted to their first- or second-choice schools). "We will say this boldly," says Paulus, "that on average, our students will be the best-prepared students for college of any educational institution in town."

Greenhills grads echo Paulus's praise. Observer writer Jay Forstner compares his Greenhills experience to attending "a small liberal arts college when you're still in high school," citing "smart teachers who cared" and "challenging conversations and class work." But Forstner also recalls that he was self-conscious about going to a private school: "I can remember ducking down below the car windows on my way home from school so my old friends from grade school wouldn't see me in my 'Greenhills' clothes"—the shirt and tie that all boys were required to wear. (That requirement has since been dropped.)

From the start, the school's founding parents worried about looking elitist. Nancy Judge, who did much of the initial fund-raising and who's the mom of four Greenhills grads, recalls that she had wanted a school that was in the spirit of "egalitarian" Ann Arbor. That's why Judge and other founders insisted that 20 percent of the students be on scholarships. (Today



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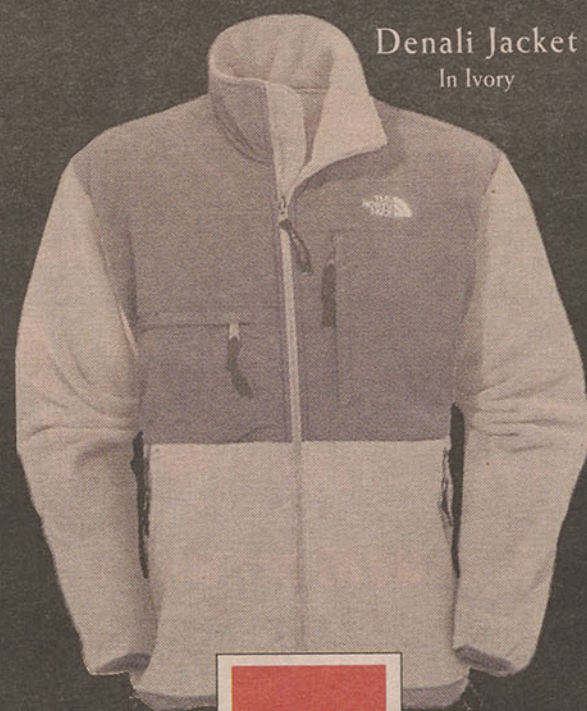


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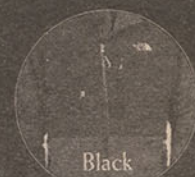


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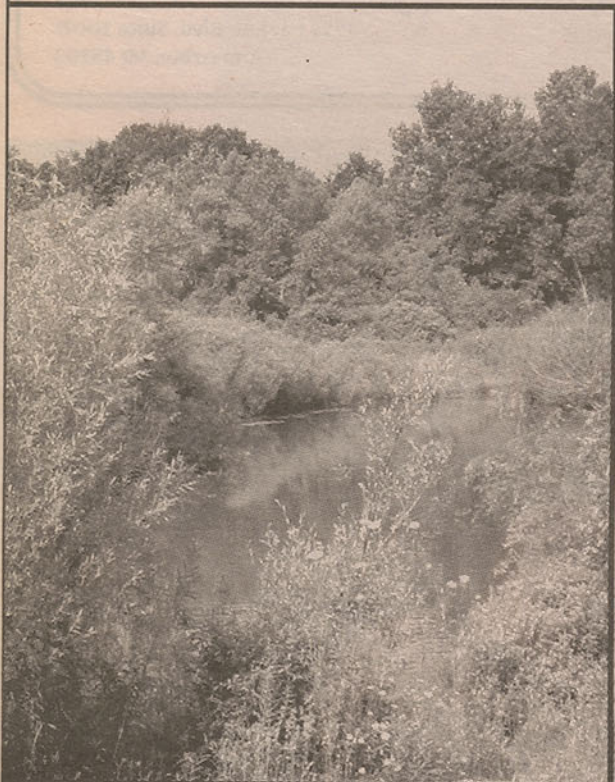
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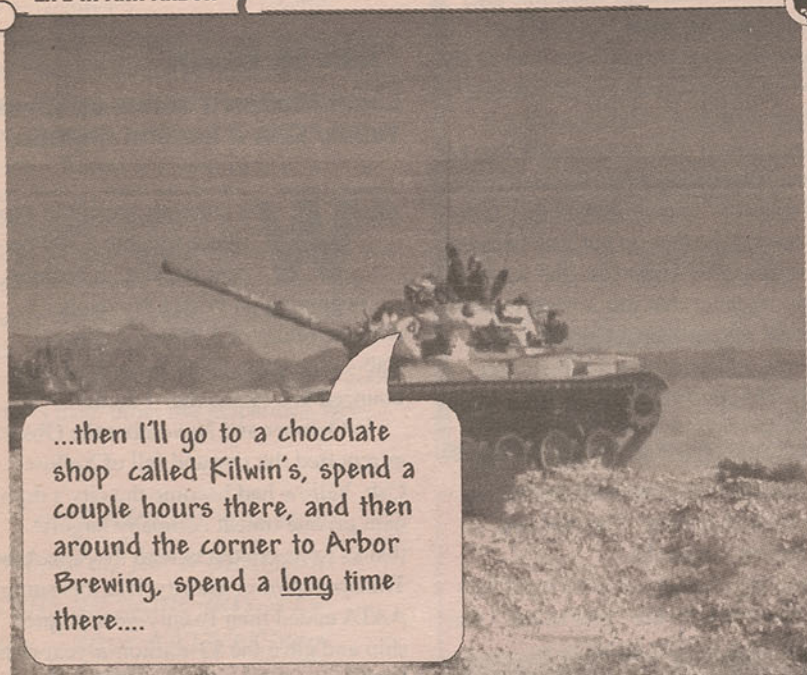
Location To Be Announced – Call For Information

Nicola's Little Professor Book Store (Westgate Shopping Center)



LIFE IN ANN ARBOR

Tim Athan



...then I'll go to a chocolate shop called Kilwin's, spend a couple hours there, and then around the corner to Arbor Brewing, spend a long time there....

Somewhere in Iraq

17 percent are on scholarships, although there is no quota.)

Greenhills also has broadened its appeal. In the past dozen years the campus has doubled in size, adding an almost-500-seat theater, an indoor sports complex, and tennis courts. Paulus credits the growth in both sports and arts to student interest, and notes that Greenhills can boast of state championships in girls' soccer and boys' tennis. The school is small enough that students can find a place for themselves both on sports teams and in school theatrical productions. At the same time, it's big enough that students can feel they're in a complete high school campus in its own right.

The chance to rub shoulders with prominent parents may be another perk of sending a child to Greenhills. Paulus notes proudly that David Canter, head honcho of Pfizer's Ann Arbor labs, worked on a committee to improve science education, and Bill Ford, CEO of Ford Motor Company, gave a leadership seminar.

EXILE

Where Is UPS Jack? Downtown's favorite delivery-man is missing.

For more than twenty years, it's been one of downtown's most familiar sights: Jack Cardwell, either behind the wheel of his big brown boxy UPS truck or on foot in his brown uniform, carting packages in and out of stores down Liberty, Washing-



ton, and Main. He'd smile, wave at pedestrians, and shout "Hey, gorgeous" out of his open truck door.

Many customers loved Jack. But one woman on his (former) route wants never to see him again. In September Sue Cattell, who owns A Different Attitude on Ashley, complained to UPS that Jack had sexually harassed her. As Cattell requested, the company pulled Jack off his long-time route. But now it's not just Sue who's not seeing him—it's all of downtown.

A group of merchants, including Carol Lopez of the Peaceable Kingdom, Jill Damon of Sixteen Hands, and Elaine Selo of Selo/Shevel Gallery, are supporting Jack. They're talking about starting a petition drive asking UPS to bring him back.

Cattell and her husband, Larry, opened A Different Attitude in 1972 and moved the store to Ashley in 1999. A year later, Larry died suddenly. They had been married for twenty-eight years, and she still gets teary when she talks about him.

Cattell carried on the store, which sells what people in the law enforcement business refer to as "drug paraphernalia." A bulletin board in the unkempt back room displays what appears to be an old Christmas card from Cheech and Chong, along with a poster showing a man with his pants down and a blond, sexy woman in a skimpy light green minidress and red high heels. The poster reads, "Hey man, when you get caught with your pants down... URINE LUCK!" Urine Luck is a product designed to fool drug tests.

Oddly, what really stirred the pot (no pun intended) was a shipment Cattell had been waiting for. According to Cattell, UPS records show that the package—she describes it as \$300 worth of water pipes—was delivered and signed for on a Friday afternoon. She says it actually was

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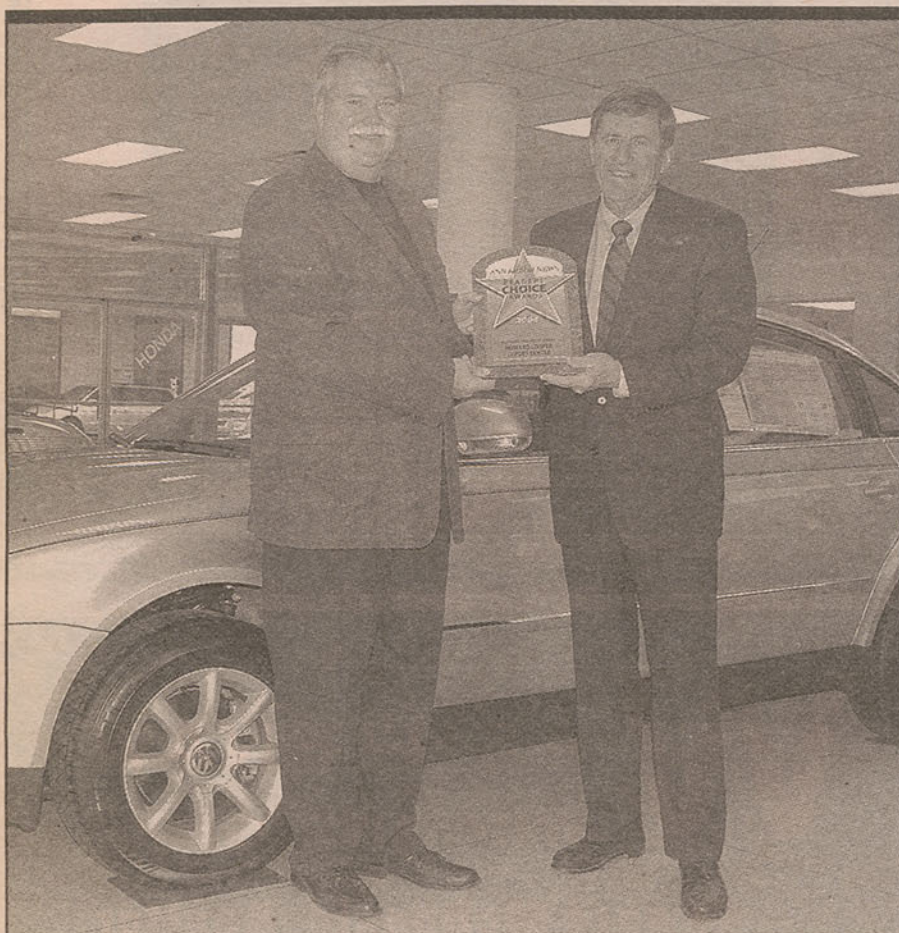
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Pictured here is Ann Arbor News Publisher David Sharp (left) presenting Readers' Choice Award to auto dealer Howard Cooper.

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INSIDE ANN ARBOR *continued*

left outside her front door sometime after the store closed at 7 p.m., because her daughter Elizabeth tripped over it when she opened up the next morning. (We weren't able to confirm that with Elizabeth.)

Cattell called UPS to complain that her merchandise had been left exposed to potential thieves—and suggested that Jack might have done that on purpose because she'd rejected his advances. She wrote in a follow-up letter that just a week earlier "he kissed me on the back of the neck, blew on it, and said 'See, I turned you on.'" In a supporting letter, jewelry maker Farah Rose wrote that she'd often been talking on the phone with Cattell when Jack came into the store, and that she'd overheard him making "forward and rather personal remarks."

Cattell says that she doesn't want Jack fired—but that UPS has "guaranteed" that he'll no longer deliver to her store.

Terry McParlane of UPS's Livonia office won't comment on any of this, except to confirm that Jack has been transferred. "I can say that the driver is working," McParlane says, "just not in the same area."

Friends say that Jack has been ordered not to talk about the situation. But many other people on his old route are upset. They suspect their favorite delivery person has been misunderstood.

"Jack is a terrific UPS driver," says Dave Sager, who ran Fiegel's Men's Wear for many years. "I cannot believe the accusations." Carol Lopez calls Jack "the world's nicest guy" and says that his transfer was "a big loss to the community." Selo describes him as "an affectionate man" and worries that punishing people in such situations "dissuades people from sharing affection."

Selo is considering switching carriers in protest. Sager and Lopez already have—they're now using DHL.

If UPS really guaranteed that Jack wouldn't be delivering to A Different Attitude, it seems unlikely that he will be back downtown anytime soon. But Main Street's loss could be the north side's gain: friends say that he's been re-assigned to Plymouth Road.

TRANSIT

"Bill Is Back"

Local Motion's screw-up gives Yellow Cab a second chance.

We currently expect to experience roughly a 100 percent increase in business ... beginning on Friday, November 5, with the return of A-Ride," Yellow Cab-Select Ride COO Dave Reid announced in a November 1 memo.

In October and November the Observer reported the rise and fall of Yellow Cab. Yellow had become the city's dominant private transit company largely thanks to its contracts with the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority. But this summer AATA ended their twenty-year partnership and gave the \$3-million-a-year contract for its Senior Service and A-Ride handicap service to a national company called Local Motion.

Local Motion took over both services on October 1. Within a week AATA was overwhelmed with complaints about long delays and no-shows. At that point, says AATA board member David Nacht, "a letter went out to Local Motion" demanding better performance. When riders continued to complain, says AATA CEO Greg Cook, the agency "met with [Local Motion] and told them what changes needed to be



Yellow Cab downsized after losing \$3 million in AATA contracts. Now it's got them back, and is scrambling to rebuild.

CIBELE VIEIRA

made." A week later, Cook says, not one of the problems had been addressed. "My staff and I thought we gave them enough time," so they canceled the contract effective November 5.

"Local Motion was not prepared for a thousand calls for same-day service," says Cook. "There were not enough phone lines, phone answerers, dispatchers, or drivers." Riders complained that drivers often didn't know where they were going. The cascading problems meant long delays in service, causing riders to arrive late at doctors' offices, dialysis centers, and grocery stores, and then stranding them with no return ride.

Nacht notes that the company got good reviews from other municipalities. But

"Local Motion was not prepared for a thousand calls for same-day service," says AATA's Greg Cook. "There were not enough phone lines, phone answerers, dispatchers, or drivers." Riders complained that drivers often didn't know where they were going. The cascading problems meant long delays in service, causing riders to arrive late at doctors' offices, dialysis centers, and grocery stores, and then stranding them with no return ride.

from the start, Yellow owner Bill Berger had argued that Local Motion had little or no experience providing the on-demand shared rides AATA required—and the company's failure to deliver suggests he was right.

After AATA canceled its contract with Local Motion, it asked Yellow Cab to again provide the services. "You should title your article 'Bill Is Back,'" says Berger, noting his prediction that Local Motion wouldn't work out. "They made a colossal miscalculation," he says, by underestimating the resources and labor necessary for the level of service Yellow had provided.

COO Reid says that Yellow has "a short-term, interim agreement with AATA" and is negotiating a new contract. "There's no guarantee," says Berger, who remains in close contact despite his recent move to Arizona. "But they want the service and we want the contract. . . . If we do well, things will work out."

The company downsized after losing the A-Ride and Senior Service contract. Now it's scrambling to rebuild. Reid's November 5 memo to former employees was headlined "We Need Drivers." It ends with "Let's run some orders and make some dough."

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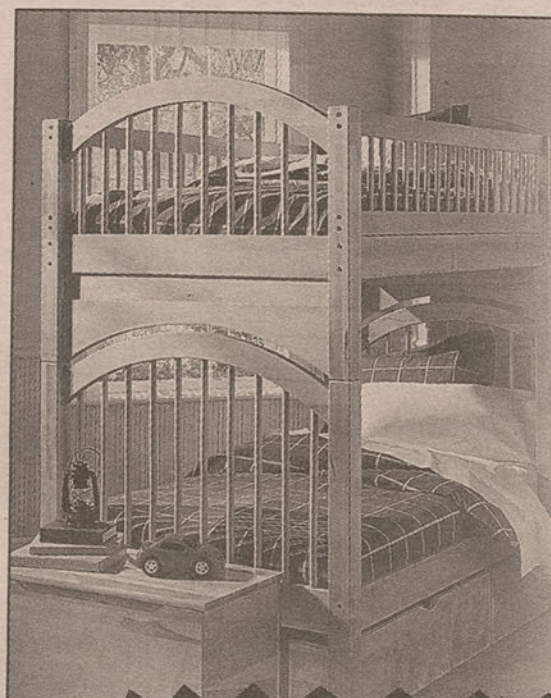
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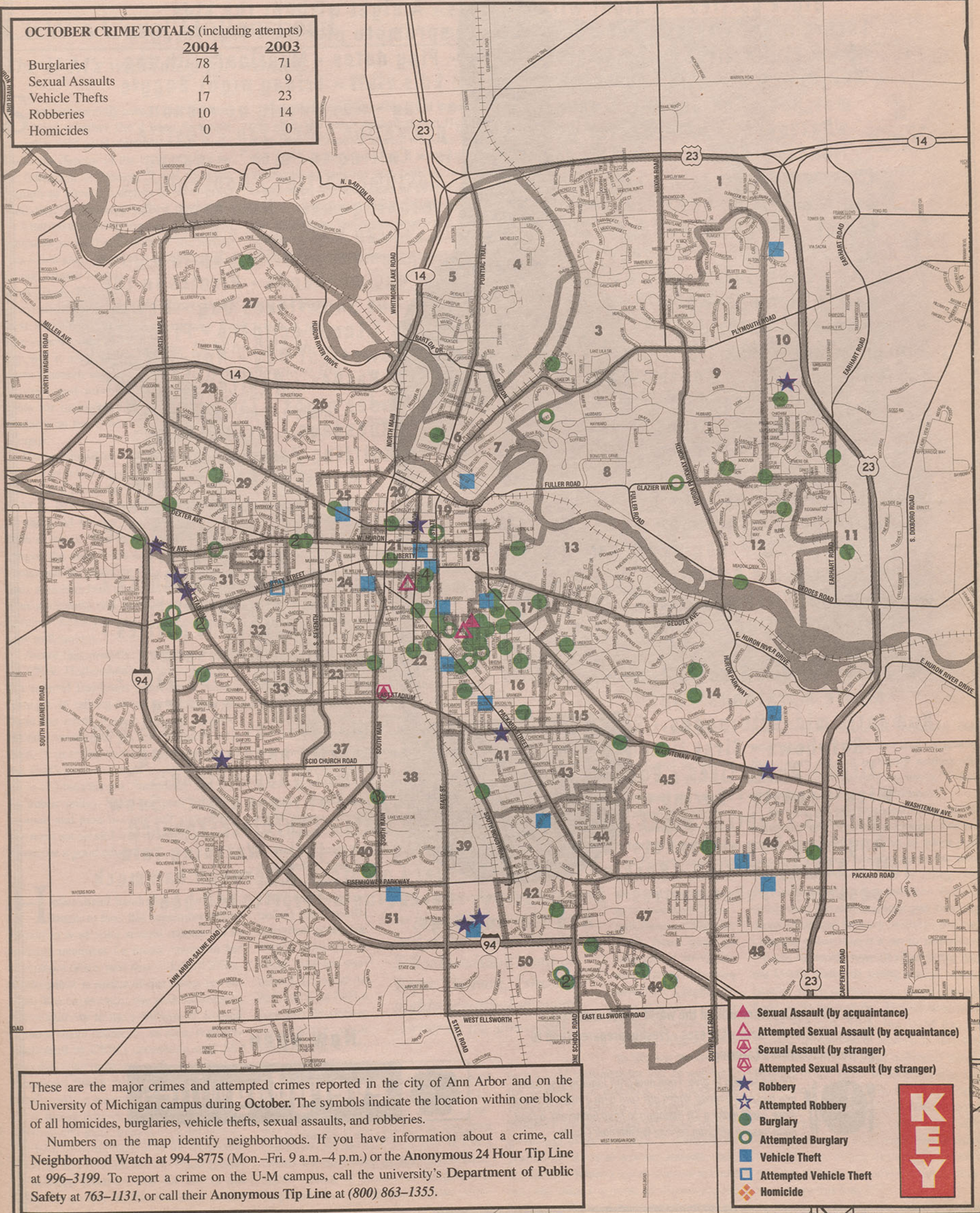
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CRIME MAP

OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2004	2003
Burglaries	78	71
Sexual Assaults	4	9
Vehicle Thefts	17	23
Robberies	10	14
Homicides	0	0



Cheesy movie night • Ordering in • Tuesday dinner • Groundhog Day •
 Block parties • A night with the kids • A night without the kids •
 Euchre night • Family get-togethers • Impromptu picnics • Tiki torches •
 Book club • First dates • Second dates • Play dates • Meatloaf with the
 neighbors • Fireside chats • Christmas Eve • Ed's visit • Friday night Boggle
 matches • The Sunday crossword • New Year's Eve • Absolutely no reason •
 whatsoever • Baby's first walk • New promotion • New job • Hostile
 takeovers • Bocce ball • Croquet • Calling in "sick" • Happy
 Housewarming party • Losing 10 pounds • Costume parties • Houseguests •
 Big football games • Tiny, inside the house football games • New baby • New
 ferret • Long lost college roommate • Visit • Corey's Feldman's birthday •
 Old movie night • New house • Mortgage payment • Curling up to a good
 book • Good hair days • Bad hair days • The day weekends • Picnics in the
 park • Piano recitals • Graduation • Out Snowflakes Day • Newly
 completed bathroom tile • Birthdays • Lunar eclipses • Pinochle
 night • Anniversaries • Kiss • Sweetest Day • Non-Hallmark
 holidays • Open houses • Bashes • Rearranging your
 sock drawer • Grandma and grandpa • Trades night • Tailgates • Wine
 tastings • Vacations • Tuesdays • Wednesdays •
 Thursdays • Fridays • Knitting Parties • Bubble
 baths • At-home spa night • Mom's • Moms' night out • Mom's
 night in • 70s parties • 80s • night • Backyard barbecues •
 Tax refunds • Snowman • Summer • Macaroni and Cheese
 night • Cheeseburger • Py hours • Trashy novels •
 Home from the hospital • Spontaneous get-togethers •
 National Rubber Eraser • sequests • Flirtatious hair •
 flips • Pasta night • Seas • ows • Engagement parties •
 Just completed the • long-winded newspaper
 ads • Child's first potty • s • Rainy days • Dog days •
 Movie marathons • Au • ucks • Romantic evenings •
 Romantic mid-afternoons • R • irthday parties • Pajamas Day •
 Rainbows • First listen • ur favorite band • Roaring
 fires • Dying fires • Por • ight family room dinners •
 Wienie roasts • Spring cl • Day • Pot roast night • Snow
 picnics • Yahtzee night • e calls • Chocolate-covered
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CEW's Carol Hollenshead

The U-M's watchdog for women

Someone recently asked Carol Hollenshead whether she'd been fortunate enough to find good child care while working as the director of the U-M's Center for the Education of Women. "I was fortunate enough to have the means to have good child care," Hollenshead replied, pointedly.

After sixteen years running CEW, Hollenshead is well tuned in to the obstacles—financial, practical, psychological—facing women in the workplace. The organization may be best known for its free career counseling, but it also conducts research about women and advocates for them, particularly on the U-M campus.

Hollenshead recalls that when she first took a job at the U-M in 1971, there were so few women on the U-M faculty that she could name each of them. "I'm happy to say that's no longer the case," she says. But Hollenshead and her nineteen full- and part-time staff members (not to mention several student assistants) still have their hands full helping clients face the challenges of the new millennium.

Aware that everything she says reflects on CEW, Hollenshead is diplomatic, but her natural frankness sometimes breaks through. In talking about how welfare reform has made it very difficult for low-income women to get an education, she says, "I'm trying to think of something to say that's polite enough"—and then goes on to call the changes "incredibly misguided public policy. Since our goal is to help women and men become self supporting, the most successful way of helping them is to ensure a good education."

Hollenshead has had her own challenges to face: this September she returned to work after several months off to undergo treatment for breast cancer. In her downtown office, next door to Liberty Plaza, Hollenshead is matter-of-fact about her ordeal. The experience, she said, heightened her sensitivity to the problems of women without health insurance, an issue regularly confronted by CEW's counseling staff. She says the center must frequently draw from an emergency fund to help U-M students cover family medical emergencies.

A stylish dresser, Hollenshead today is wearing silk pants topped by a red blouse; her hair, growing back after the treatment, is curly and reddish brown. Photographs of women from around the world are hanging on her walls; her desk holds stacks of neatly organized papers.

Hollenshead is fifty-five—old enough that when she was a student at Port Huron High, her counselor asked whether she was going to be a nurse or a teacher, assuming those were her only options. At the U-M, where she graduated in 1971 with a degree in American studies, Hollenshead was one of the few women active in student government. After graduation she worked in a series of administrative jobs at

the U-M, got promoted steadily, and along the way picked up a master's degree in educational psychology. She and her husband, fellow U-M grad Bruce Wilson, who works at Med-Stat, raised two children, now eighteen and twenty-six. Hollenshead was an assistant to a U-M

vice-president when the directorship of CEW came open in 1988.

By the time Hollenshead took over, CEW had come a long way from its beginnings in 1964—it started out squeezed into an office in the Michigan League, with a staff of three part-timers. Back then, "CEW" stood for Continuing Education for Women, and the priority was counseling housewives who wanted to return to school to complete their educations.

Under visionary director Jean Campbell, CEW was soon granting scholarships to women returning to school, running support groups for job hunters, and conducting research on women and the workplace. Beginning with a course on Great Books, CEW also successfully lobbied the university to begin offering evening classes.

Hollenshead is quick to credit the early leaders' farsightedness, noting that CEW was launched before the feminist revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s. She has continued to build on their vision. In 1989, a year after she became director, the center was renamed. By then, its clients were

no longer just women returning to school but also, more likely, people who were already in the workplace and wanted to improve their situations. Many, too, had been employed but had lost their jobs. (CEW's clients are no longer exclusively women, either—about 10 percent of the people it helps are male.) Hollenshead also introduced new programs and greatly expanded

"Because she's been here so long and is so visible and active," says Medical School assistant dean Jayne Thorson, "she's highly regarded at every corner of the university."



MARGARET WHITE TEALL

CEW's endowment, from \$250,000 to nearly \$5 million.

"She's wise and helpful and incredibly tenacious," says provost Paul Courant, who has known Hollenshead for twenty years. "She lets go of absolutely nothing she cares about." Jayne Thorson, an assistant dean at the U-M Medical School, says that Hollenshead can successfully navigate the U-M bureaucracy to advocate on important issues. "Because she's been here so long and is so visible and active," Thorson says, "she's highly regarded at every corner of the university."

Hollenshead tries to balance her roles as both a U-M administrator and its watchdog for women. For instance, she chairs the President's Advisory Committee on Women's Issues, whose activities include producing, every few years, a statistical report on the status of women students, staff, and faculty. When a report is about to come out, she makes a point of discussing the findings with the departments involved be-

fore the news media are informed. One male dean, on being shown data suggesting there were a lot of unhappy women students at his college, told her wryly, "I must remember that facts are my friends."

Despite all Hollenshead's efforts, the university can be slow to change. For example, it took several years to adopt policies that allowed employees to use their own sick time to take care of ailing children and other family members. Policies concerning the enrollment of part-time students continue to vary widely; provost Courant notes that it's up to individual schools to decide how flexible to be. And the U-M's status on hiring senior women faculty, when compared to similar institutions, is "in the middle," Hollenshead says.

On the plus side, the U-M has increased the number of women faculty who earn tenure. It also has achieved gender balance in the ranks of its executive officers—most dramatically, by appointing its first female president, Mary Sue Coleman.

Coleman's hiring in 2002 was a symbolic milestone. Afterward, Hollenshead recalls, she heard several university women declare, "I never thought that I would live this long."

—Eve Silberman



SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

*** On days having even-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the street having odd-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council

has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk.

Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

David Byrd Chapel

"The stone which the builders rejected"

When architect David Byrd was building the chapel that bears his name, he put a quotation from Psalm 118:22 over the front entrance: "the stone which the builders rejected." Joe Summers, vicar of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, which now occupies the building, finds the message very apt, since the church was built from discarded construction materials and by people who were in danger of being passed over because of their race. "It's a metaphor for all the outcasts that society rejected," explains Summers.

Finished in 1987, just months before Byrd died, the chapel at 3261 Lohr Road was the culmination of his career as an architect and a teacher. A simple rectangular design with a cupola, the chapel looks much like a traditional New England church, except that it is made of concrete blocks rather than wood or stone.

In 1966 Byrd gave up a career as an architect in Washington, D.C., to start WCC's construction technology program. Born in 1921, he was educated at Hampton Institute and Howard University, and later earned a master's and worked toward a doctorate in architecture at the U-M. According to his widow, Letitia Byrd, a retired teacher and a community activist, the job at WCC appealed to Byrd's idealistic side. "He wanted to use architecture to help people," she explains. "He wanted to stimulate black students to study—to create new opportunities, lines of vision."

By the 1960s construction unions were no longer officially segregated, but they were hard to get into if you didn't have connections. One of Byrd's main goals was to get more blacks into the unions by giving them the necessary training. In some cases older students already had the skills but needed a piece of paper as proof. Byrd also encouraged more African Americans to become architects.

In addition to working at WCC, Byrd continued to practice architecture, starting with his own house on Brookside and one across the street for Letitia's grandmother. Many of his projects connected to his social activism, such as the Black Economic Development League building on Depot and a nursery school for Ypsilanti's Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ. A lot of his projects were church related—converting the former Arnet's Monuments on Chapin into New Hope Baptist, designing and building New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Willow Run, and adding on to what is now Crossroads Community Baptist Church, next to Stone School. For his own church, Ann Arbor's First United Methodist, Byrd designed and built a chapel, a memorial garden, and a promenade that serves as a barrier-free entrance.

Whenever he could, Byrd used his commissions to create job opportunities for his students and for black contractors in the area. Victor Hamilton, a WCC student whom Byrd was mentoring, was one of those hired to work on the Greater Shiloh nursery school. Hamilton recalls that as part of the job, the union came out and signed people up. Carl Hearn, an African American concrete contractor, sponsored Hamilton, getting him into the trade he still prac-



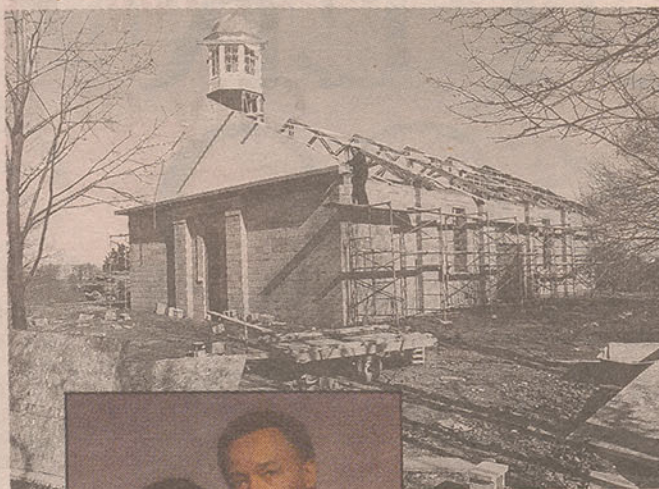
A cupola created by his WCC class inspired architect David Byrd to build a chapel on his property in Pittsfield Township. "He was very spiritual," recalls his widow, Letitia. "If he had lived, he would probably have gone into the ministry."

tices. Hamilton says that if he hadn't met Byrd, it probably wouldn't have happened. "Growing up on the south side of Ypsilanti, I didn't know about unions," says Hamilton. "He put me in that direction."

Byrd also liked finding new uses for old buildings. He built his own office in a onetime garage on East Summit, and converted the old brewery at Summit and Fifth into apartments. In 1969, while serving as a Washtenaw County commissioner, Byrd convinced the county to purchase the old Holy Ghost Seminary at Washtenaw and Hogback; today, it's part of the County Service Center.

In 1975 Byrd bought an 1830s farmhouse and sixty acres of land on Lohr, then a dirt road. Although now across the street from Kohl's department store, the house then seemed way out in the country. Run down from years of rental use, it was a perfect teaching tool for restoration practices. Hamilton and others recall helping to raise the sagging floor, jacking up the roof, putting in new rafters, and replacing the gingerbread on the outside.

In another of Byrd's class projects—



looked to the black contractors who had worked on his other projects, such as Flint electrician Tom Flowers. "He was a dear friend—more like a brother," recalls Flowers. At each stage Byrd invited his WCC students to come, watch, and learn.

Byrd's personal stamp was most noticeable inside the chapel. He designed the stained-glass win-

dows, chose the verses to put on the railings and on the stonework, designed the interior cross, and did most of the inside carpentry, including the railings, pulpit, and chancel, where he inlaid a cross in the wooden floor.

The chapel was dedicated in January 1987. The service was beautiful, recalls J. Nathaniel Crout, the pastor at New Covenant. According to Crout, Byrd envisioned the church as "a place people could come to concentrate, meditate—a sanctuary."

Early that spring, Byrd had a heart attack. "He left home in pain one morning. At noon he drove to St. Joe's and was admitted. He never came home," recalls Letitia. He died on May 17, 1987, at age sixty-six, after seven weeks on a respirator. "On the day he died, students poured their eyes out," Crout remembers.

A year after Byrd's death, the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation started meeting in the chapel. The congregation was founded in 1984 by a group from St. Andrew's who wanted to put more emphasis on social justice issues. They had been meeting in various places—private homes, the Pittsfield Grange, the old Arborland—until Letitia heard about their need through her brother, a member of the congregation. She eventually sold them the land and gave them the building, with the provision that it remain in religious use for fifty years. She is now working on turning the restored farmhouse into a museum of African American history.

Since moving to the Byrd Chapel, the Church of the Incarnation has grown to 160 members. Needing more space and amenities, it undertook a major fundraising effort to build an addition, designed and constructed by Attila Huth, that includes a large social hall, Sunday school space, and staff offices. To meet township standards, the church also replaced the narrow dirt entrance road with a paved two-lane driveway and large parking lot.

The new addition meets public meeting standards, so the building can now be rented out for lectures, concerts, or weddings. Already serving Byrd's vision of a place of worship, it will also fit his original idea of a community meeting place.

—Grace Shackman

building a cupola—his students learned how to apply metal to wood. They constructed the wooden frame at WCC and added the metal in Byrd's basement. When it was done, Byrd thought it was so pretty that it should be used. He decided to build something on the land behind the farmhouse.

His original thought was that the building should be a community meeting space. "There were very few places blacks could meet," explains Letitia. But one day, "he felt a calling to build a church," she recalls. "He was very spiritual. If he had lived, he would probably have gone into the ministry. He spent so much of his time studying and researching church work and talking to ministers."

Victor Hamilton was involved in the project from the beginning, laying the concrete blocks on weekends. He worked mostly alone, although another WCC student, Terry Samuels, sometimes helped. Samuels also worked on the altar and other interior brickwork. Whenever he could, Byrd used donated material that contractors didn't need or had rejected—but Hamilton also remembers many trips to Fingerle Lumber.

For work outside his expertise, Byrd

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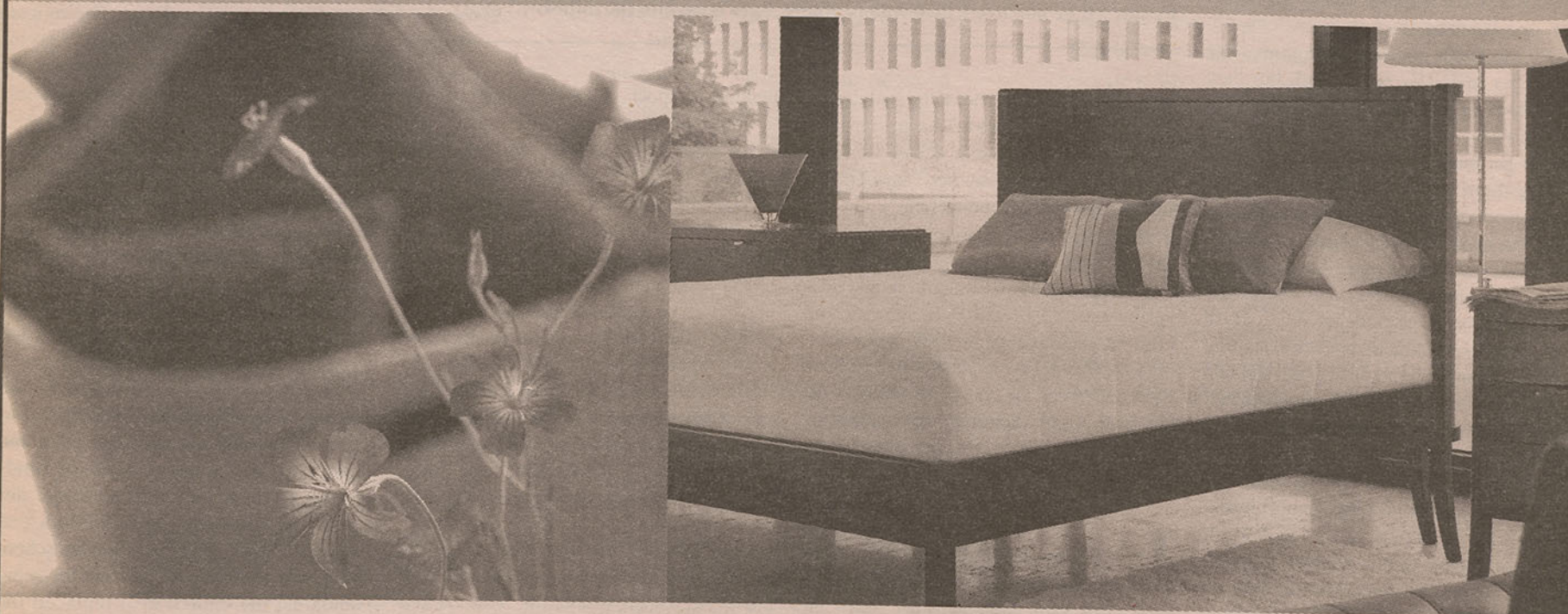
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Buying Souls into Heaven

by James Leonard

On September 8, 2004, Father Neil Roy sued Ave Maria College in Washtenaw County Circuit Court. He accused the school's board of trustees of acting in a manner that was "willfully oppressive" and "contrary to the purpose of Ave Maria College." The suit was national news, because Roy himself is the college's academic dean—and a member of its board of trustees.

Roy sued because on September 9, the trustees were scheduled to take up a proposal to convert the college into a stock company. Then they would be asked to sell all ten shares in the company to a new owner for \$100. After that, they would change the school's bylaws to give what the suit described as "entire control" of the college to the new owner: a sister institution in North Naples, Florida, called Ave Maria University.

According to Roy, approval of these proposals would mean the imminent demise of the Michigan college, which is based in a cluster of beautifully rehabilitated buildings in Ypsilanti. He sued in the hope of halting or at least staying the execution.

The ninety-eight counts of Roy's lawsuit track the decline and fall of Ave Maria College as they trace the recent story of Tom Monaghan, its founder and the chairman of its board of trustees. Monaghan, sixty-seven, is the Ann Arbor billionaire



Monaghan at Ave Maria University's temporary Florida campus.

Trouble in Tom Monaghan's educational empire.

who built Domino's into the biggest pizza delivery business in the world and then, six years ago, sold it to devote himself to conservative Catholic causes. He frequently says that his goal now is "to help get as many people into heaven as possible."

Monaghan founded Ave Maria College in 1998 with a gift of \$30 million. Opening with three professors and ten students, it grew over the next four years into an educational community of several hundred souls. Lately, however, it had become increasingly apparent to the faculty, staff, students, and parents of Ave Maria Col-

lege that Monaghan was hell-bent on closing their school.

Monaghan is not given to self-doubt. But lately, even he has had to admit that mistakes have been made in his educational empire. The very people he promised to help get to heaven are now denouncing his most trusted lieutenants as "liars" and "bullies," and accusing Tom Monaghan himself of "spiritual greed."

"The finest Catholic university in the world"

Ave Maria College was Monaghan's first foray into higher education—but his ambitions escalated quickly. In

1999 he founded Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor. The next year his Ave Maria Foundation took over a Baptist college in Nicaragua and a struggling Catholic

school in Orchard Lake, Michigan. The Nicaraguan campus was renamed Ave Maria College of the Americas. The Michigan school became St. Mary's College of Ave Maria University.

Monaghan has always had a thing for architecture—and grandeur. He built, and still owns, Domino's sprawling, Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired headquarters in Ann Arbor Township. He instructed his architects to design a university campus there, complete with classrooms, dormitories, administration buildings, and a 250-foot crucifix, the tallest in the world.

In July 2001 Monaghan asked the township to rezone his 1,700-acre office park to accommodate his planned university. For the next nine months, the township's planning commission considered the request and held a series of public meetings. The township had approved most of Monaghan's previous proposals for the site, which already included two grammar schools, a high school, a petting zoo, and a convent. But, as trustee and planning commission member Michael Moran recalls, "he gave no demonstrated reason why the office park should not be functioning as an office park."

In April 2002 Ann Arbor Township rejected the rezoning. By then, however, Monaghan had already moved on. In 2001, as they had many times in the past, Monaghan and his family spent the Christmas holidays in Naples, Florida. After what he described later as "a night of prayer," Monaghan decided to build his new orthodox Catholic university nearby, in rural Collier County. The trustees of Ave Maria College unanimously approved the proposal at their February 2002 board meeting, and Monaghan approached two men he trusted to execute his intentions. ♦



Whistle-blowers: Jay McNally and Kate Ernsting say they were fired for talking to the U.S. Department of Education.

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Buying Souls into Heaven

continued

The first was a lawyer, Nick Healy, whom Monaghan had hired in July 1999 to be the first president of Ave Maria College. Healy was invaluable in the negotiations to acquire St. Mary's College and Ave Maria College of the Americas. The second man was Joseph Fessio, a Jesuit priest and nationally prominent conservative Catholic educator. Healy would be president and Fessio chancellor of Ave Maria University.

Monaghan announced that the new university would rival Notre Dame in scale and scope. It would have a student body of 5,000, an NCAA Division I football team, and the biggest Catholic church building in the United States. It would be, he said, "the finest Catholic university in the world."

He committed \$150 million for the first phase of construction through 2006, plus an additional \$70 million for the first seven years of the university's operation. The 750-acre campus was donated by the Barron Collier Company. Nearby, the company and Monaghan would jointly develop an entirely new town called Ave Maria, with an eventual population of 20,000. Monaghan, who was contributing \$100 million to the partnership, pledged that "any profits that are generated" from the development would serve as "an endowment for the university."

Monaghan hoped to break ground for both the university and the town in the autumn of 2004 and to have the new campus open for the fall semester of 2006. In the meantime, he paid \$23 million to create a temporary campus by buying two condominium towers, a clubhouse, and a dozen duplexes in a partially abandoned luxury housing complex in North Naples. And to assure continuity between the university and the college, Monaghan appointed both Healy and Fessio to the college's board of trustees.

"An empty, legal shell"

In November 2002 the college's trustees designated the university a degree site of the college, thereby allowing the Ypsilanti school to provide services and facilities to the Florida project. They also approved Monaghan's proposal "to fund Ave Maria College (in Michigan) a minimum of \$25 million if necessary to cover operating deficits over a four-year period, beginning fiscal year July 1, 2002."

That commitment was also a deadline: at the same meeting, the trustees voted "to move [Ave Maria College] to Florida and . . . to merge with, come under the control of, and/or transfer some or all assets, operations, and liabilities to Ave Maria University." Monaghan's commitment of \$25 million was intended only to keep the Michigan school going until the university's permanent campus was ready.

The next day, at a press conference in Naples, Barron Collier board chair Lamar Gable declared that at their first meeting, he knew that Monaghan "was the kind of individual with the kind of staff we wanted to be associated with." Via videotape, Florida governor Jeb Bush, the president's

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brother, affirmed that "as a Catholic, I'm very proud that students will be able to obtain an education with the highest academic standards and with a firm grounding in religious and moral values."

But other Catholics would soon question just how firm that grounding was. Six months later, on May 1, 2003, Monaghan announced that Madonna University in Livonia would take over operation of St. Mary's College. The St. Mary's community was shocked.

Monaghan cited the school's deficit as the reason for the transfer. But according to John Hittinger, St. Mary's academic dean, the school had operated within its budget and had met its projections for income through tuition. In a letter to the *National Catholic Register*, Hittinger asserted that the real source of the deficit was the school's development department—a department that Monaghan had promised

for fall 2003 and guarantee that those entering will be able to graduate in Michigan in 2007."

In August, Nick Healy had Ave Maria College and Ave Maria University declared independent legal entities. Knowing that the college's days were numbered, Healy separated the schools so that whatever happened to Ave Maria College, Ave Maria University could seek independent accreditation.

It was a decision he would soon regret. Later that month, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) began its annual review of federal financial aid distributed to the students of Ave Maria College. The review was nearly complete when, according to a later statement by Ave Maria University, "a staff member—on her own initiative, according to the president of [Ave Maria College]—took it upon herself to call the Department of Education in Washington

Jay McNally, the college's director of public relations, thought the financial aid transaction appeared to be "deeply, deeply illegal." Like Kate Ernsting, he secretly contacted the U.S. Department of Education.

to build up, but had instead moved to Ave Maria College. St. Mary's students were absorbed into Madonna, but half the college's faculty and two-thirds of its staff were dismissed.

There was a catch to the transfer, but apparently neither Monaghan nor Healy was aware of it until Hittinger's letter was published. "Ave Maria University came into existence as a legal entity sponsored by Orchard Lake Schools and Ave Maria College," the former dean wrote. "St. Mary's College is its only campus and its only accredited entity. When St. Mary's College closed on June 30, Ave Maria University [had] no accredited educational entities. It is but an empty, legal shell."

Without accreditation, students at Ave Maria University would be unable to receive federal financial aid. What was worse, any credits or degrees students earned there would be considered worthless by virtually every other college and university in America.

The closing of St. Mary's, Hittinger wrote, revealed the "dark side" of Tom Monaghan's vision: its "dependence upon Monaghan's arbitrary focus or level of interest and its idiosyncratic definitions of Catholic faith." It would not be the last protest against the way Monaghan was building his religious empire.

"A smoldering ash pit"

St. Mary's merged with Madonna on July 1, 2003. That same day, Monaghan announced that philosophy professor Ronald Muller would become the second president of Ave Maria College. In *Annunciation*, the college's official newspaper, Muller assured people that "we are recruiting a full class for the Michigan campus

and suggest that there might be irregularities in the compliance with Department of Education regulations."

There were indeed irregularities. On January 16, 2004, Bob Hickey, the financial aid director of Ave Maria College and Ave Maria University, called the admissions office in Ypsilanti with instructions to admit eleven students to the college. All eleven had applied to the college previously but had been rejected because their test scores were too low. But Hickey not only wanted them admitted, he also wanted them to be granted federal financial aid through the college—even though they would actually be studying at the university, in Florida.

Kate Ernsting, a special assistant to the president working in the admissions office, thought Hickey's order looked "fishy," so she secretly placed a telephone call to ED. Jay McNally, the college's director of public relations, was even more suspicious—he thought the transaction appeared to be "deeply, deeply illegal." McNally, too, secretly contacted ED. Using information and documents provided by Ernsting and McNally, ED intensified its investigation of Ave Maria College and expanded its scrutiny to include Ave Maria University.

Within weeks, university president Nick Healy and college president Ronald Muller informed the faculty and staff at both schools that Ave Maria College would be absorbed by the university.

Healy and Muller reaffirmed that the incoming students of 2003 would be able to earn a degree in 2007 from what they now called the "Ypsilanti campus." But the degree would not be from Ave Maria College, because by the time they received

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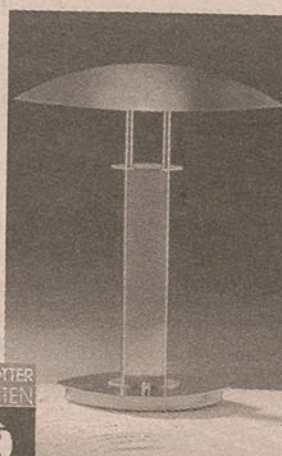
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Buying Souls into Heaven

continued

their diplomas, that school would no longer exist. In closing, Healy and Muller asked the faculty and staff "for your patience, your prayers and for the suspension of criticism during the next several months."

They should have thought to ask the students' parents as well. Just five days later, a newly formed group called "Ave Parents" posted its response on the Internet. The group described Healy and Muller's memo as "a complete betrayal of the promise to maintain the program in Michigan until the year 2007."

That same day, Nick Healy, for the second time in as many years, initiated secret negotiations with Madonna University. It was later reported that he offered to pay Madonna \$10 million if it would agree to merge with Ave Maria College. The next week the college board of trustees laid out a fallback plan, directing the college administration "to aim for a merger with Ave Maria University no later than June 30, 2004" and furthermore "to a transfer of all assets to AMU not later than June 20, 2004." In all the furor, Monaghan apparently had decided not to wait three years to close Ave Maria College.

But Monaghan's troubles were mounting. In May 2004, Cruxnews, a conservative Catholic website, ran an editorial, "Is Tom Monaghan Dismantling Another Catholic College?" Revealing Healy's secret negotiations to merge Ave Maria College with Madonna University, the editorial asked, "Does anyone really unload a successful, orthodox Catholic college like a pile of junk bonds? Tom Monaghan's Ave Maria Foundation seems to think so—again and again."

In early June, Nick Healy and Joseph Fessio sent "An Open Letter to the Students, Parents, and Friends of Ave Maria College." Complaining that "a number of e-mails have been circulating [that] contain serious misinformation and harsh and even slanderous criticism of Mr. Tom Monaghan, for the sake of both justice and charity, we believe it important that the salient facts be known."

Healy and Fessio argued that the decision to relocate the college to Florida was caused by "the repeated refusal of the Ann Arbor Charter Township to allow any part of the Domino Farms property to be used for educational purposes"—apparently forgetting the township's previous approval of two grammar schools and a high school. They added that the decision was made "by a distinguished Board," when the board was distinguished primarily by the fact that it had approved every important decision Monaghan had ever made about the school. And they defended the possible link with Madonna as a way "to secure accreditation for all the students over the remaining three years"—without acknowledging their previous promise to keep the Ypsilanti campus itself open that long. They closed by noting that while "no relocation is without some pain and difficulty . . . we intend to act with integrity, with charity, and with fortitude in completing the tasks set before us."



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That's not how it looked to the Ave Parents. In a vituperative response to Healy and Fessio's letter, the website declared that "those driving the AMU machine have clearly adopted a 'scorched earth' policy with regard to AMC Michigan." The site alleged that when Healy was the college's president "he succeeded in alienating well over half the faculty and staff" and that his "high-handed, capricious, and bullying behavior created a gaping hole in his credibility among students, faculty, and staff." If Healy and Fessio succeeded in their intentions, the group warned, "nothing will be left of AMC Michigan but a smoldering ash pit, and our sons and daughters will be among the ashes left floating in the wind."

On June 8, 2004, the college trustees met in private special session to address the deepening crisis. Although Monaghan, Healy, and Fessio pressed for the accelerated transfer of the college's assets

That wasn't how the feds saw it. Just two weeks later, president Muller received a letter censuring the college for inadequately documenting and improperly distributing student financial aid. According to the letter, from 2000 to 2002, during Nick Healy's administration, the college had failed to provide adequate documentation for a "significant number" of students. ED ordered the college to return at least \$300,000.

In addition, when Healy had transferred eighty students from the college to the university in August 2003, he had improperly transferred their federal financial aid to an independent legal entity. For this, ED ordered the university to return at least another \$380,000. Neither the college nor the university could draw or distribute federal financial aid again until the matters were resolved. Furthermore, ED informed Muller that it had turned the investigation over to its inspector general for possible

"Does anyone really unload a successful, orthodox Catholic college like a pile of junk bonds?" asked Cruxnews, a conservative Catholic website. "Tom Monaghan's Ave Maria Foundation seems to think so—again and again."

to the university, a majority of the board, led by U.S. circuit judge James Ryan, voted instead to keep the college intact until July 2007.

It was the first time the board had ever thwarted Monaghan. What's more, because of Monaghan's previous \$25 million commitment to the college, the rebellious board majority believed they had the time, the approval, and the money needed to found a new school in Ypsilanti that would carry on even after the 2007 deadline.

The vote appeared to be a total victory for Ave Maria College. The next day, president Muller sent a letter to the faculty, staff, students, and parents, in which he praised the trustees for their "generous, inspired reaction," extolled Monaghan for being "extraordinarily generous," and recommended that "while we are earnestly searching for a good outcome, please consider that stressing the positive is the most helpful." Partly on the basis of the trustees' decision, Muller extended the faculty and staff's contracts through June 2007.

Chancellor Monaghan

Three days later, Paul Roney, Ave Maria College's financial officer and Tom Monaghan's personal financial advisor, reported to the trustees on ED's investigation into the college's distribution of federal financial aid. It was a curious report. While it touched on the irregular transfer of funds from the college to the university, it concluded that "whatever difficulties there have been with [ED] have been caused by AMC and its employees." Apparently violating financial aid rules wouldn't have been a problem if Kate Ernsting and Jay McNally hadn't tipped off the feds.

additional fines and criminal charges. Muller passed the letters along to Healy, Fessio, and Monaghan.

By then, Monaghan had quashed the trustees' hope of creating an independent college in Ypsilanti. He announced in June that he had "reluctantly withdrawn my support to fund the [new] college proposal" due to the "instability and divisive feelings and correspondences among the people at Ave Maria College and Ave Maria University." As he had blamed Ann Arbor Township for his decision to build his university in Florida, so Monaghan now blamed the college for his decision to close it.

In response, all fourteen remaining members of the faculty and staff of Ave Maria College sent a letter to the trustees demanding that Healy and Fessio resign from the college's board. "We believe the best interest of AMC requires that we have a board with integrity, and that requires that Fessio and Healy resign," one staff member said. "They have a clear conflict of interest [in] trying to dismantle our college while it benefits them personally [through their positions at the university]."

Fessio and Healy refused to consider resignation. Instead, Fessio insisted, "I should be commended for heroic efforts in carrying out rules of the board in the midst of baseless opposition."

Healy was slightly more conciliatory. "I do believe most people there are not doing it because they're evil. . . . I think they're scared, angry, and I think they're confused." Healy and Fessio blamed president Muller for not keeping the faculty, staff, students, and parents adequately informed of their intentions.

The same day, Healy announced that negotiations with Madonna University had




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Buying Souls into Heaven *continued*



An Ave Maria College trustee has gone to court to try to keep the Ypsilanti school open.

been broken off. "We never got very far," Healy explained, "because there was so much misunderstanding about what was intended." All a spokesperson for Madonna would say regarding the matter was that she was not sure why talks ended.

On June 28, Tom Monaghan convened another special meeting of the trustees of the Ave Maria Foundation, and announced that he wanted president Muller removed from office immediately. The trustees were willing to go along—but even they balked when Monaghan proposed that he himself should be the next president of Ave Maria College. As founding trustee John Kruse loudly pointed out, "With all due respect, Tom, if you become president, it would be a major PR disaster." Although he has honorary degrees from Catholic colleges and universities across the country, Monaghan never completed a semester at college.

Instead, Monaghan turned Muller into a disempowered figurehead. The board appointed Jack Sites from the university's department of financial affairs to become the college's new provost. They also agreed to Monaghan's proposal to immediately shut down the college's admissions, communications, and development departments and dismiss their staffs.

Kate Ernsting, one of the staff members who had talked to ED in January, was in charge of admissions at the college. Jay McNally, the other person who went to ED, was director of communications. Within days of the board meeting, both were summarily dismissed from their jobs.

McNally says that while he still admires and respects Monaghan's past charitable activities, "what he's done at Ave Maria College is just a ruthless exercise in power." Both he and Ernsting believe that Monaghan has been misled by his closest advisors, particularly Nick Healy.

"Tom has a very vulnerable spot," Ernsting says. "He finds it easy to believe that people are against him, that people are plotting against him. It's very easy for him to believe that when people tell him that he may be making a mistake . . . they're disloyal."

Ernsting and McNally both say they hope Ave Maria University will succeed—but both also have filed federal "whistle-blower" lawsuits. The suits charge that they were fired for talking to the Department of Education.

On July 1, 2004, Monaghan sent another open letter to the students and parents of Ave Maria College. He opened by reaffirming his "commitment to keep the Ypsilanti campus open until May of 2007." While he acknowledged that "there are many who passionately believe I should continue to support the College in Michigan even as I contribute most of my net worth to the University in Florida, I really do not have the resources to do both."

"Why should our sons and daughters believe anything Mr. Monaghan says?" Ave Parents replied the next day. "What credibility does he or his puppet board think they have anymore among Catholic parents?" While acknowledging "Mr. Monaghan's good intentions," they continued, "we wish here to point out a spiritual danger of which Mr. Monaghan may or may not be aware. There is such a thing as spiritual greed." Their children were being sacrificed, the parents argued, because Monaghan had succumbed to the sin of pride. A college in Ypsilanti wasn't enough—he wanted "the finest Catholic university in the world."

The warning went unheeded. At the beginning of August, Monaghan made himself the chancellor of Ave Maria University. Nick Healy retained his position as president, while Joseph Fessio moved over to become provost.

"Rome is the center of the Catholic Church"

This semester, 337 students started classes at Ave Maria University's temporary campus in North Naples, Florida. According to the university, 10 percent "transferred from Ave Maria College in Michigan." The temporary campus has continued to expand, with half a dozen additional buildings acquired or constructed.

Meanwhile, ground has not yet been

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broken for the permanent campus. "I don't know if we're going to make it by the fall of 2006," the *Naples Daily News* quoted Healy. "Even next year is going to be difficult." Fessio agreed: "We're bursting at the seams, but we'll find solutions. There are a number of options"—including, possibly, opening a satellite campus in Rome, because "Rome is the center of the Catholic Church."

At the same time Healy was trying to get Ave Maria University through the accreditation process. So far, he had done nearly everything wrong. The university could have piggybacked on either St. Mary's or Ave Maria College's accreditation status—but Healy had sold St. Mary's College, and legally separated the university from Ave Maria College. He applied for separate accreditation status for the university in January 2004, but the accreditation board quickly rejected the application because of inadequate documentation.

Plans for Ave Maria University show classrooms and dormitories for 6,000 students and the biggest college football stadium in the country—plus barns and stables for a world-class equestrian team.

At least Collier County is cooperating; it approved the first phase of the development without seeing detailed plans. When the plans were filed in late July, they revealed that Monaghan's vision was still growing. They showed classrooms and dormitories for 6,000 students and the biggest college football stadium in the country—plus barns and stables for a world-class equestrian team. There would also be a \$200 million "oratory" with the "largest seating capacity of any Catholic church in the country." Ironically, however, church law would forbid Catholic sacraments to be celebrated in the building unless it were associated with a Catholic parish—and so far, the bishop of Venice has failed to respond to Fessio's request to designate the oratory as the parish church for the future town of Ave Maria.

Because a portion of the property is situated on wetlands adjoining the Everglades, the university and the town still have to receive environmental approvals before construction can begin. But even with this caveat, the land adjoining Ave Maria University and the town of Ave Maria has continued to appreciate enormously. When the venture was first announced in 2002, land values tripled; by this past August, they had almost doubled again.

This semester at Ave Maria College, 119 students, including 29 freshmen, started classes in Ypsilanti. Although Monaghan, Healy, and Fessio haven't said publicly why they backed off from their plan to close the school in June, the anger it provoked had been hurting the university as well as the college, and certainly wasn't helping the university's attempt to gain accreditation. But no one expects the respite to last.

When new college provost Jack Sites arrived in July, he told the staff at their first meeting that "experienced administrators" knew when to "bend the rules" in following government regulations, according to Suzanne Abdalla, a former admissions administrator. When Abdalla questioned Sites, he quickly changed the subject—but by the end of the week, Abdalla was dismissed.

"It was unbelievable to hear him telling us that 'bending the rules' can be okay," Abdalla told the *Wanderer*, a conservative Catholic newspaper, "just as the Department of Education was revealing that both Ave Maria campuses have to pay back more than a half million dollars in refunds because a former AMU Florida official has already 'bent the rules.'" Abdalla was later rehired in another department at the college.

Then, in late August, Father Neil Roy, the new academic dean of Ave Maria College and a member of its board of trustees,

received Monaghan's letter advising the board of his intention to turn control of the college over to Ave Maria University. And so Roy filed his complaint in the Circuit Court of Washtenaw County.

Despite repeated requests, neither Roy, Healy, nor Monaghan would speak to the Observer about the lawsuit, or about anything else for that matter. A hearing is scheduled for early December on the college's motion to dismiss the suit. Trustee John Kruse, a lawyer, expects that the dismissal will be granted.

If so, the change of control is likely to follow immediately, and by January, Ave Maria College will cease to exist as an independent institution. But even if Roy prevails, the victory is likely to be hollow. As word gets out of Monaghan's determination to close the Michigan campus, students are making other plans. No matter what happens in court, the winter term is likely to be the last at the Ypsilanti campus. The college's \$1 million library has already been shipped to Florida.

In Collier County, meanwhile, the building boom continues. In June, after intense criticism in the conservative Catholic press, Monaghan announced a revised design for the oratory. Instead of the light-filled glass and steel structure he'd talked about only a few months earlier, it now would have a more traditional stone-and-copper facade. "I would rather it look too dark than too light," he said, saying the architect had assured him the redesigned building would be more "mysterious."

Monaghan's superlatives, however, are unchanged. He promises that it will still have the "largest seating capacity of any Catholic church in the country" and "the largest crucifix in the world."



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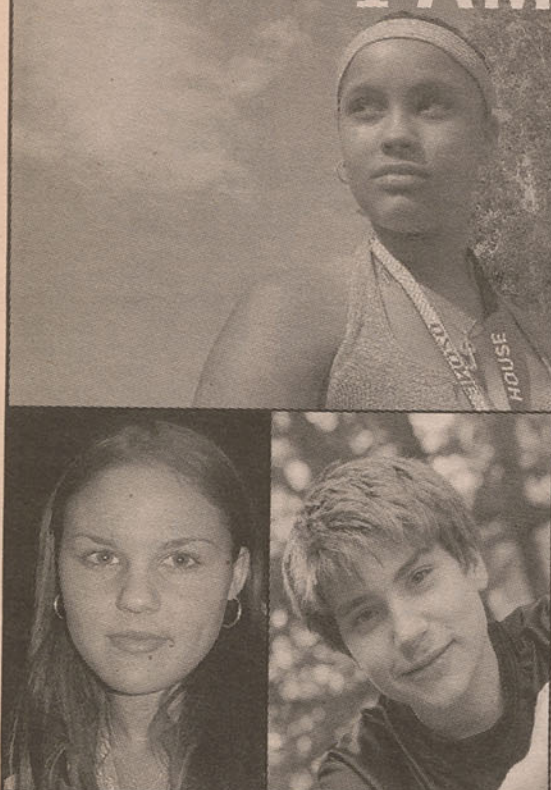
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Say You Want a REVOLUTION

John Lennon in Ann Arbor.

by James Leonard

Peter Andrews remembers thinking that the whole idea—a political rally to persuade the government to release a man doing ten years in prison for violating the drug laws—was “completely crazy.” With a handful of speakers plus a protest singer on the program, Andrews was convinced that he would never fill Crisler Arena, and that the U-M would never let him produce a concert on campus again. But Andrews was not only Ann Arbor’s premier concert producer, he was also a friend of the man in jail. He believed that holding the rally was the right thing to do—even if it was completely crazy.

Then, just nine days before the event, Andrews got a telephone call from the wife of the man in jail. Three decades later he still remembers her exact words: “Peter! Peter! John Lennon wants to play at the rally!”

The presence of Lennon, the founder of the most popular and successful rock band in history, would change everything. The story of John Lennon in Ann Arbor is *It’s a Wonderful Life* remade as a counterculture musical. Three days after Lennon performed in Ann Arbor, John Sinclair was released from prison. And because Lennon performed in Ann Arbor, his own life—and perhaps the nation’s—was changed irrevocably.

Once upon a time in New York City

John Lennon moved to America in August 1971, not quite a year and a half after the dissolution of the Beatles. But long before the band broke up, Lennon, with his outspokenness on politics and spirituality, had begun separating himself from the image of the band as four lovable mop-tops. In 1966 Lennon’s remark that the Beatles were “more popular than Jesus” had incensed religious conservatives, and his repeated assertions that the Vietnam War was “completely insane” infuriated political conservatives. Also in 1966, Lennon had begun separating himself from his wife, Cynthia: he fell deeply in love with Yoko Ono, a Japanese avant-garde artist, and with the artistic freedom she represented.

Lennon and Ono initially came to New York City in pursuit of her ex-husband, who had abducted their daughter and disappeared into America. When the couple arrived at the St. Regis Hotel on Central Park South, the first people to call them up were Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman. The self-styled “Yippies” were out on bail while appealing their

five-year prison sentences for conspiracy to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

The Lennons met Rubin and Hoffman the following Saturday under the Washington Square Arch in Greenwich Village. “It was love at first sight,” Rubin wrote later. “We dug his sense of humor. We were knocked out by her sincerity.” They spent the next five hours in Hoffman’s Lower East Side apartment talking about life and music and politics and the war in Vietnam.

In early October the Lennons traveled to Syracuse for the opening of Ono’s show at the Everson Museum. While they were there they participated in their first American protest, opposing construction of a highway across land owned by the Onondaga Indian tribe. When they returned to New York City, the Lennons told Rubin that they wanted to get actively and directly involved in radical politics in America. “John says he wants to put together a new band. He wants to play, and he wants to give all the money back to the people,” Rubin gleefully told his associates. As he later explained, “They wanted to be radicals. It was as simple as that.”

In early November the Lennons moved out of the St. Regis into a two-room apartment at 105 Bank Street, down the hall from composer John Cage. They had only what they needed: a piano, guitar, tape deck, and television, plus several telephones in one room and a mattress with an American flag as a bedspread in the other. Wearing T-shirts and denim jackets, they rode bicycles around Greenwich Village. Bob Dylan, who had introduced

Lennon to marijuana in August 1964 while the Beatles were on their first North American tour, came down from Woodstock to show them the sights, telling them where it was cool to shop for clothes and to buy groceries.

They made friends with street musician David Peel and sometimes performed with him, strolling up Second

John Lennon and Yoko Ono on stage at Crisler Arena in December 1971. Their performance on behalf of imprisoned radical John Sinclair was Lennon’s first U.S. show in five years, and the response was so overwhelming that they planned a nationwide political tour.



Avenue singing Peel’s “Have a Marijuana” and “The Pope Smokes Dope.” The couple invited every sort of radical to their apartment: Yippies, Black Panthers, feminists, poets. Lennon practiced meditation with Allen Ginsberg, author of *Howl*, and Ono became friends with Kate Millett, author of *Sexual Politics*. As Millett remembered the Lennons’ apartment, it was always full of people, and “the TV would be going—thank God they didn’t have the sound on—and everybody would smoke dope and talk.”

“Hello, this is John Lennon”

Late in November 1971, Jerry Rubin talked with the Lennons about John Sinclair. A prolific poet, writer, and



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Say You Want a REVOLUTION continued

editor, as well as a tireless organizer and a relentless revolutionary, Sinclair was best known nationally as the manager of the MC5, the Detroit rock 'n' roll band whose professed aim was "the total assault on the culture by any means necessary." In the spring of 1968, after his Detroit commune had been firebombed twice and he had been arrested for marijuana possession three times, Sinclair moved to Ann Arbor, along with his German-born wife, Leni, and their children, Marion (Sunny) and Celia. They started a new commune in the big house at 1510 Hill Street, and there Sinclair cofounded the White Panther Party. Sinclair's ten-point program for the party culminated in a litany of liberation: "We want a free planet. We want free land, free food, free shelter, free clothing, free music and culture, free media, free technology, free education, free health care, free bodies, free people, free time and space, everything free for everybody!"

Soon there was an addition to the list: "free John Sinclair." Convicted of selling two marijuana cigarettes to an undercover police officer, he was sentenced in July 1969 to ten years in Marquette State Prison. It was the maximum sentence al-

lowed under state law, to be served in the prison farthest from his lawyers, friends, and family.

Sinclair's sentence became a cause célèbre in the Michigan counterculture. His lawyers put pressure on the legislature to change the state's marijuana laws. His family and friends organized marches, rallies, and demonstrations for him, and put collection boxes for the John Sinclair Freedom Fund at the counters of record stores and head shops across southeastern Michigan. In a show of solidarity, U-M professors held a cocktail party that raised \$137 for the Freedom Fund. And because Sinclair asked him, Peter Andrews organized the John Sinclair Freedom Rally. The date would be Friday, December 10, 1971, at Crisler Arena.

Andrews, a twenty-seven-year-old local promoter then working as events director for the U-M, had known Sinclair and his wife since they moved to town. But he had doubts about the rally. Billed as Ten for Two, it was supposed to center on speeches by Rubin, Rennie Davis, David Dellinger, and Bobby Seale—all defendants at the Chicago conspiracy trial—with a little music from protest singer Phil Ochs. "John wanted to hold the rally to show how much support there was," Andrews recalled in a recent interview. "But I was certain it'd only show how little support there was."

Trying to broaden the event's appeal, Andrews added an appearance by Ginsberg and performances by local musicians

Convicted of selling two marijuana cigarettes to an undercover police officer, Sinclair was sentenced to ten years in prison. The "freedom rally" at Crisler sold out within hours.

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Bob Seger, Teegarden and Van Winkle, and Commander Cody and the Lost Planet Airmen, as well as jazz saxophonist Archie Shepp. Even so, at the end of November, Andrews was convinced that 2,000 or 3,000 people at most would attend the John Sinclair Freedom Rally.

All that changed nine days before the event, when Andrews received a telephone call from Leni Sinclair. She told him that Jerry Rubin had convinced Lennon and Ono to perform at Ten for Two. Andrews did not believe her at first, because, as he later put it, "Jerry Rubin is, well, sort of a putz." But Leni persuaded him to fly to New York with her the next day. When they arrived in the city, they took a bus to the Village and called the unlisted telephone number Rubin had given them. To Andrews's surprise, John Lennon answered. He invited them over to the Bank Street apartment.

The couple "made us feel extremely welcome," Andrews remembers. The Lennons agreed to the standard fee of \$500, but only if it was donated to the John Sinclair Freedom Fund. It would be John Lennon's first performance in the United States since the Beatles' last show in San Francisco five years earlier.

After the contract was signed, Lennon picked up a National steel-bodied guitar and played Andrews a modified twelve-bar blues called "John Sinclair." Lennon wanted to make sure that the song's lyrics fit Sinclair's situation. Andrews assured him that they did, and he and Leni left.

"We got to the end of the first block when I realized that no one's going to believe this," Andrews recalls. "So we went back to their apartment and knocked on the door and asked them to make a tape for us to take with us." The Lennons eagerly agreed, and Andrews wrote a short script, which they read into a cassette recorder. It began "Hello, this is John Lennon."

"I just wiggled!"

Andrews returned to Ann Arbor that night. Then, he says, "we jammed for seven days straight." Using the tape as part of a commercial, the organizers announced that tickets would go on sale the next day for \$3.50 each. Lee Berry, then a sixteen-year-old kid in Oakland County and now the marketing director for the Michigan Theater, remembers cutting school and hitchhiking from outlet to outlet trying to buy tickets—but the John Sinclair Freedom Rally sold out so fast that he never got to go.

Next, Andrews and the rest of the U-M events staff concentrated on making sure that the rally had the "biggest effect possible on the largest audience possible." They arranged a television broadcast on WTVS, with a simulcast on radio station WABX. Local video producer Steve Gebhardt would film the event for theatrical release. And Andrews had a special telephone set up backstage, wired to the public address system at Crisler, so that John Sinclair himself could speak to his supporters live. If Andrews and Sinclair pulled it off, it would be a Capraesque coup de théâtre of political radicalism.

Everyone involved with Ten for Two

had trouble believing that John Lennon was really coming to Ann Arbor—even John Sinclair himself. Recently transferred from Marquette to Jackson State Prison, Sinclair got the news from his brother David in the prison's visiting room.

"I said, 'No way. Get out of here,'" remembers John. "I literally told him to leave." David left, drove to Ann Arbor, picked up the Lennons' tape, and drove back to Jackson. Then, before his brother could throw him out again, he played the tape. As John Sinclair later put it, "I just wiggled!"

A few days before the event, Andrews received a telephone call from Stevie Wonder, who said that although he did not smoke marijuana and was in fact completely against drug use of any kind, he wanted to show his support for Sinclair by performing at the rally. Since the event was already sold out, Andrews asked Wonder to appear as an unannounced special guest. Then, the day before the rally, the Michigan Legislature revised the state's marijuana laws, clearing the way for Sinclair's possible release on parole the next spring.

On Friday afternoon, Andrews and a friend drove a borrowed black Bentley to Detroit Metro Airport to meet the Lennons. When they arrived, Andrews saw "a huge cop" brusquely ordering everyone not to park in front of the terminal. Andrews rolled down the Bentley's window, called the cop over, and told him that John Lennon was going to walk out the door in ten minutes and that if he let them stay there, Lennon would shake his hand. According to Andrews, when the Lennons walked out the door ten minutes later, Lennon did shake the cop's hand—and thanked him, too.

Andrews escorted the Lennons to the presidential suite at the Campus Inn. When he left, Andrews remembers, Lennon was sitting on the bed strumming a guitar while a roomful of people talked around him. Andrews had already agreed to clear Crisler Arena that afternoon so that Bobby Seale's Black Panther entourage could search for explosives. He arrived to learn that the Panthers had taken over one of the men's locker rooms and were refusing to let anyone enter. He advised his counterculture security staff, the Psychedelic Rangers, to acquiesce.

"Say something to me!"

The John Sinclair Freedom Rally started late. A new band Sinclair was managing from prison, called the Up, thrashed its way through a song with two chords and three words—"Free John Now." Then Allen Ginsberg improvised a poem in a groaning voice over his spastically squeezed hand organ and guitarist Gary Williamson's frantically strummed G major chord. With five photographers shooting and eleven movie and video cameramen capturing his performance, Ginsberg moaned, "O dear John Sinclair, / We pray you leave your jailhouse. / O dear John Sinclair, / We celebrate your liberty / Tonight."

After Ginsberg's last moan, Ed Sanders, a singer with the underground band the Fugs, declaimed a series of

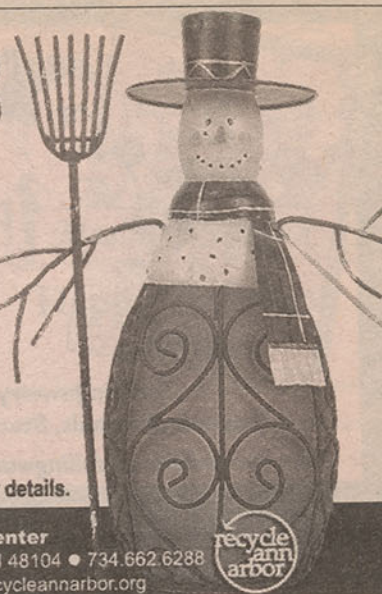
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Say You Want a REVOLUTION

continued

propositions beginning with "If John Sinclair were a thug selling heroin to grade school children and paying bribes to police and public officials . . ." and ending with ". . . he'd be a free man now." At every conclusion, the audience of 15,000 cheered and clapped wildly.

"Even though it was general admission, there were no problems, no security problems whatsoever," Andrews recalls. Karen Young, then Andrews's assistant, has a simple explanation: "They were *high*, to tell you the truth. They were very, very high."

Bob Seger whooped his way through a juiced-up cover of Chuck Berry's "Carol,"

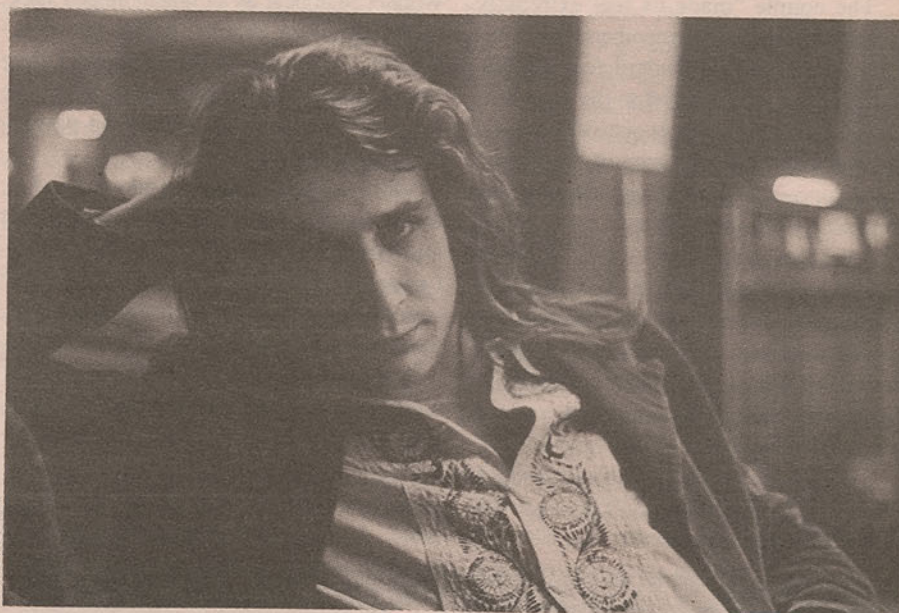
a stairwell off a small, narrow hallway." Ono, she says, was "small and quiet," while Lennon was "very casual, sitting on the steps."

"People were very casual with him, too," remembers Young—but, she adds, "of course, everybody was in awe of him."

Onstage, Rennie Davis and David Dellinger spoke, and tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp and trombonist Roswell Rudd blew their collective lungs out.

Then John Sinclair, who had been listening to WABX's simulcast in Jackson State Prison, used the pay telephone off the day room to call Andrews's special telephone backstage. "I was terrified to make the call," Sinclair recalls, "because I was sure they would cut it off in the middle, snatch me out of the phone booth, and rush me to the hole."

The first thing the audience heard was Leni Sinclair's small voice saying "Hey,



LENI SINCLAIR

Rally organizer Peter Andrews expected only a few thousand people—until Lennon and Ono agreed to appear. They donated their \$500 fee to the John Sinclair Freedom Fund.

accompanied by the Detroit power trio Teegarden and Van Winkle. James Groppi, an antiwar Catholic priest from Milwaukee, compared the political situation in America to that in Germany "at the time of the rise of Nazism." After another Teegarden and Van Winkle number, Bobby Seale's bodyguards fanned out across the front of the stage. When Seale took the podium and announced "All power to the people!" the audience cheered and clapped wildly. "Not only do we want to free all the people," the Black Panther announced, "but you gonna have to free the birds and the snails and the worms and the trees and the lakes and everything to free humanity."

As Phil Ochs hurled himself into his impassioned protest song "Here's to the State of Richard Nixon," Karen Young was standing at the back door of Crisler Arena, waiting for a big black Bentley. As the car crawled into the light, Young remembers, Ono had her "face leaning forward right up against the windshield," and Lennon was in the backseat wearing his trademark "John Lennon glasses." The couple were dressed alike, in black leather jackets and pink T-shirts emblazoned with a stenciled marijuana leaf.

Young showed the Lennons to their dressing room, but they preferred to "sit in

John?" followed by Peter Andrews's clear voice saying "This is a live phone call from Jackson." Then, speaking a little louder, Leni said, "Hey, can you say hello to fifteen thousand people?" and, after a short pause, "Sunny's here too. Sunny wants to say hello to you."

"Hi, John," said four-year-old Sunny in a tiny voice.

"How you doing?" John Sinclair asked his daughter. Instead of answering directly, Sunny asked in a singsong voice, "What are *you* doing?" John repeated incredulously, "What are *you* doing?" and Sunny answered joyfully, "I'm talking to you!"

After a pause in which no one could speak, John Sinclair called out quietly, "Leni, I wanna know if you're still out there." Leni replied simply, "Yeah, I'm still here. I won't go away. We're waiting for you to get out."

After a long pause, John began laughing, giddy with happiness. "I think it's gonna happen, you know. It's gonna happen. It's gotta happen. . . . What can they say to what's going on here tonight? . . . We're together, that's all. They try to keep us apart, they try to isolate us, they try to drive us *crazy* . . . but the more we come together, the harder we get down and . . . and that's all there is to it. . . . We can't do

it alone, and we aren't doing it alone. . . . Say something to me!"

The audience responded by cheering and clapping rapturously. Andrews proclaimed prophetically over the PA system, "John Sinclair is gonna be free because of this rally!"

Then Commander Cody and the Lost Planet Airmen, Ann Arbor's virtuoso country-and-western band, performed their drug parody "Down to Seeds and Stems Again," followed it up with a hard-driving "Hot Rod Lincoln," and closed with a riotous cover of Elvis Presley's "Jailhouse Rock."

Leni Sinclair spoke—"I really don't know what to say except that this is one of the most beautiful things that ever happened, not just for John but I think in our whole culture"—and introduced John's mother, Elsie Sinclair. Elsie told the audience, "You can teach more to your parents than your parents have ever taught you." As the crowd cheered and clapped wildly, she smiled a nervous smile, raised her arm in a clenched fist, and added tersely, "I'm speaking from personal experience."

Then unannounced special guest Stevie Wonder and his band Wonderlove took the stage. Singing lead and playing harmonica, Wonder led the band through a frenetic but controlled version of his hit "For Once in My Life." He then moved over to the electric piano, dedicated the next number "to all the undercover agents in the audience," and took the band through a hard and funky version of "Somebody's Watching You."

The final speaker was Jerry Rubin, the "putz" who had convinced the Lennons to appear at the rally. "This is like a dream, seeing fifteen thousand people demanding freedom for John Sinclair," Rubin announced. "He's been in jail for two and a half years for smoking two joints!" Rubin concluded by reading a list of demands that ended with "defeat Nixon, really end the war in Vietnam, and end this sick system that poisons our stomachs with this lousy food and build a revolutionary movement!" The audience cheered and clapped wildly.

David Peel led the audience in his Marijuana Pledge of Allegiance. "I pledge allegiance . . . to the bag . . . of marijuana . . . made in Mexico . . ." and then led his band, the Lower East Side, through a tone-deaf version of a song called "Bob Dylan" and an equally tone-deaf version of a number called "John Lennon," a three-chord song with the lyrics "John Lennon, / Yoko Ono, / New York City / Is your people. / John Lennon, / Yoko Ono, / New York City / Is your friend." The audience sat through that number, too—but, high as they were, they did not cheer or clap.

"We start again"

Finally, at 4 in the morning, John Lennon and Yoko Ono walked onstage. Lennon carried an acoustic guitar, and Ono held a small conga drum. For this performance and this performance only, they were accompanied by a band called the Plastic Ono Lower East Side—the three guitarists from the Lower East Side, plus David Peel on washtub bass and Jerry Rubin on bongos.



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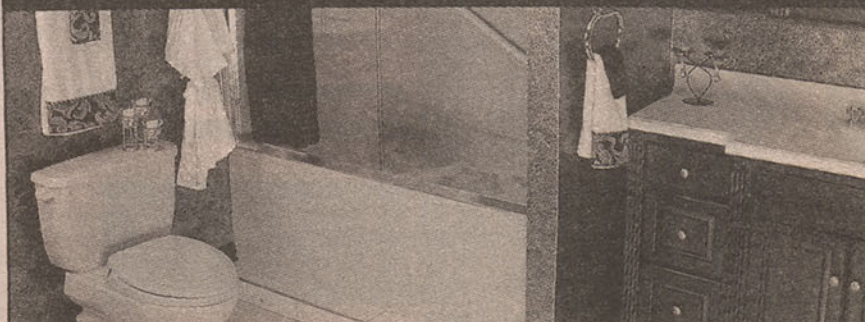
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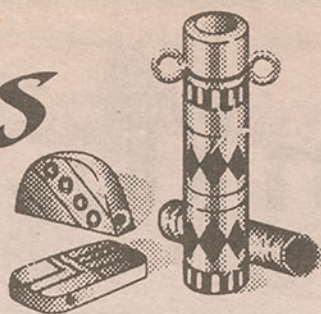
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Say You Want a REVOLUTION

continued

In a nasal, Liverpool-accented voice, Lennon introduced a new song called "Attica State." A simple tune with a one-chord verse and a three-chord chorus, it paraphrased the Beatles' number-one single from the summer of 1967: "Free the prisoners, jail the judges. / Free all prisoners everywhere. / All they want is truth and justice. / All they need is love and care."

Lennon then counted in the second new song, an old-fashioned waltz called "Luck of the Irish" that mocked the British presence in Northern Ireland. "Luck of the Irish" comes close to patronizing with its sentimental melody and images of leprechauns and the Blarney Stone, and closer still to insulting with its chorus's closing line: "If you should have the luck of the Irish, you'd wish you was English instead."

Next, Ono shyly approached the microphone. "Now we're going to sing a song called 'O Sisters, O Sisters,'" she announced in a sharp, Japanese-accented

clapped deliriously, Lennon counted in the last song of the night. "John Sinclair" is a country blues, with Lennon's steel slide buzzing and stinging on his steel-bodied guitar and the Plastic Ono Lower East Side rolling and tumbling beneath him. To a tune as simple as a children's song, the verses ask, "Was he jailed for what he done / Or representing everyone?" with Lennon singing in his highest register. The chorus closes with the refrain "We gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta gotta set him free."

"I understood perfectly"

After the final chorus of "John Sinclair," the Lennons and the Plastic Ono Lower East Side walked off the stage, and the long night was over at last. The audience of 15,000 returned to their rooms and their beds. In the days and years to come, many would try in vain to remember just what had happened that night.

The Lennons returned to their hotel suite for a few hours' sleep and flew back to their apartment in the Village. Andrews and Young returned to their office and discovered that Ten for Two had earned \$45,000 for the John Sinclair Freedom Fund.

John Sinclair returned to his cell in Jackson. Leni, Sunny, and Celia Sinclair returned to their commune in Ann Arbor and spent the weekend worrying about their husband and father—but the guards apparently never caught on that he had called Crisler Arena.

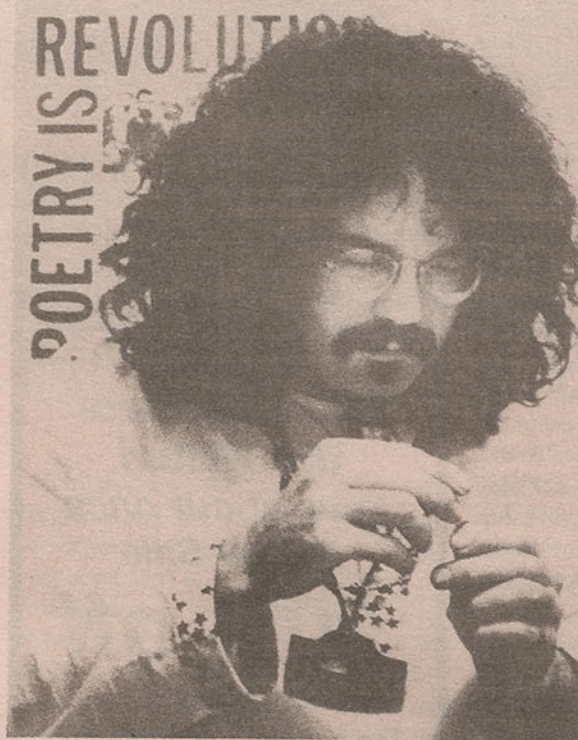
Then, to the shock of everyone involved, the Michigan Supreme Court decreed on Monday that John Sinclair should be set free immediately on appeal. And so, after two and a half years in jail, John Sinclair, poet and revolutionary, stepped from behind the double rows of iron bars on the night of December 13, gathered his wife and children into his arms, and walked out of prison.

Later that night, at a party back at 1510 Hill Street, Sinclair got a telephone call from the Lennons. All John Lennon could say was "We couldn't believe it," and all

John Sinclair could reply was "I know. I couldn't believe it either."

The Lennons saw the John Sinclair Freedom Rally as only the start. Amazed by how effective Sinclair's advocacy was, and by how professional Andrews and his staff were, the couple began talking with Sinclair and Andrews about putting together a tour that autumn. Sinclair was up for it, and Andrews was free—the U-M, he says, "got rid of me as quickly as they could" after the rally.

The Lennons' idea was to start with a free show in San Diego at the same time as the 1972 Republican National Convention and then take it to twenty-five cities across America in a series of peace rallies. Stevie



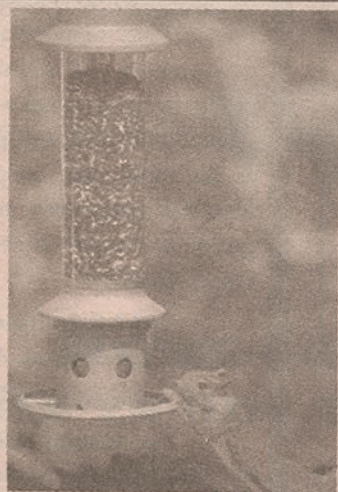
The day before the rally, the Michigan Legislature changed the state's marijuana laws. Three days afterward, John Sinclair was released on appeal.

voice. "I wrote this song a day before yesterday for sisters in Ann Arbor, Michigan." An easy song with a sprightly melody and a marchlike rhythm, it begins with the invocation "O sisters, O sisters, let's stand up right now. / It's never too late to start from the start." When the song ended, Lennon gave his wife a kiss on the cheek.

Then he strapped on the National steel-bodied, turned, and spoke directly to the audience. "We came here not only to help John and to spotlight what's going on but also to show and to say to all of you that apathy isn't it and we can do something. Okay, so Flower Power didn't work. So what? We start again."

While the audience cheered and

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Wonder had agreed to take part, and Lennon was talking to Bob Dylan. He was thinking about asking Ringo Starr and George Harrison and maybe even Paul McCartney to get involved. As Allen Ginsberg later said, "It seemed like the great breakthrough that everybody had been waiting for. I thought that an enormously important social and political and artistic union was taking place. And Lennon seemed to be taking the responsibility."

As far as the Nixon administration was concerned, however, the John Sinclair Freedom Rally was the end of it. As Stevie Wonder suspected, J. Edgar Hoover had undercover FBI agents at the rally taking notes on the songs and the speeches and snapping photographs of all the participants. Hoover shared the file with attorney general John Mitchell, who, on the advice of his friend senator Strom Thurmond, passed it on to the Immigration and Naturalization Service with a cover letter that closed, "If Lennon's visa is terminated, it would be a strategic countermeasure."

At the beginning of February, the INS ordered the Lennons to leave the country within sixty days. Knowing that if they left the United States, Ono's efforts to find her daughter were doomed, the Lennons stopped their political appearances, dropped the idea of the peace tour, and instead appeared on the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon. Now looking less revolutionary, and armed with expensive lawyers, they persuaded the INS to grant many successive postponements of their deportation.

"Canceling the tour plan was wise," Sinclair said in a 1983 interview. "I know how much it meant to them to stay here—partially because of the thing with the kid. I understood perfectly."

In July 1976, after almost five years of legal persecution during which their telephones were tapped and their movements were followed, the Lennons were finally granted permanent residency in the United States. In December 1980, after not quite five years of domestic bliss with Yoko and their son, Sean, John Lennon was assassinated by a crazed lone gunman in front of his home in New York City. In 1998 Kyo-to Ono, whose father had indoctrinated her into a Christian doomsday cult and taught her that her mother was the Antichrist, contacted her mother for the first time in almost three decades.

Yoko Ono still lives in New York, is still an artist, and has become the guardian of John Lennon's memory. John and Leni Sinclair divorced in 1988. Leni works as a photographer and lives with Sunny and Celia in Detroit. John has remarried; he now divides his time between Detroit and Amsterdam. For the recent movie *20 to Life*, he was filmed in Amsterdam, where marijuana is legal, with a group of people who were happily taking up.

Back in Ann Arbor, Karen Young is very happy as the leader of Bird Rescue of Huron Valley. Peter Andrews works at Foto 1 Imaging on Oak Valley Drive. He likes his job, but he wishes he were still producing concerts.

If he were, he says, he could put the magic back into going to shows.

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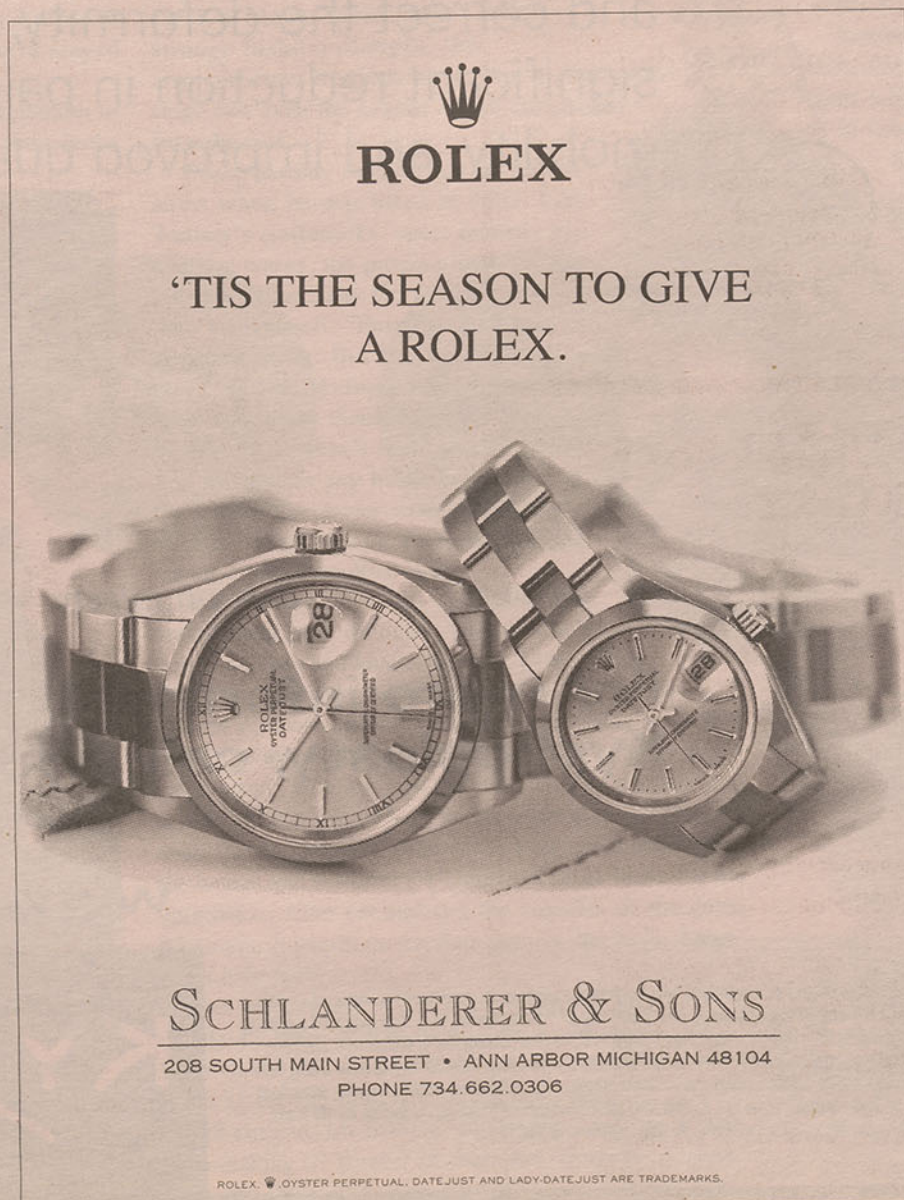


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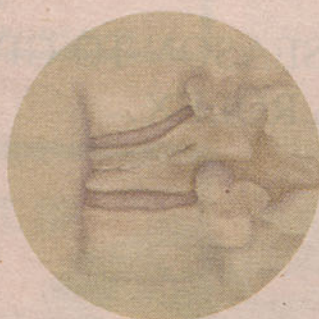
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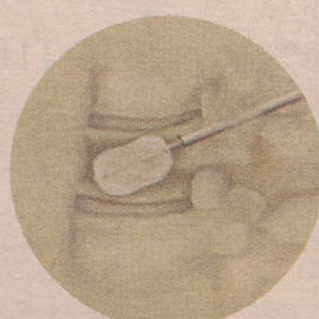


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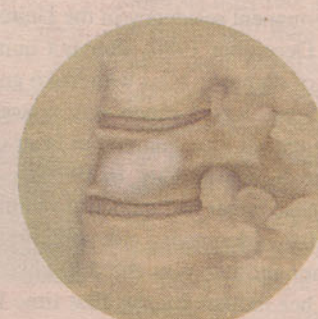
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Michigan basketball heats up Crisler.

by Craig Ross

SEND IN THE FANS

A funny thing happened on the way to Michigan's surprising NIT championship last season. The fans showed up.

For most of its thirty-seven-year history, Crisler Arena has been dark and lifeless. Sometimes—say, when Indiana coach Bob Knight oiled his way through the tunnel on his characteristic last-second stroll to the Hoosier bench—a few fans would get worked up. Stray cries of “Nice sweater, coach” or “Hey, that chair ain’t nailed down, Mister Bob” could be heard. But more often than not, all I heard at Crisler was the figurative voice of the crowd muttering, “Geez, are we missing a rerun of Masterpiece Theater? Maybe we should have stayed home. Let’s leave early.”

Even when the Fab Five captured the imagination of everyone in the country under twenty-five, their home

court seemed impervious to the call. More students bought tickets, yet most of the time the arena remained a good place to study—or sleep. And the Five left nothing behind but fleeting images—the huge and baggy shorts, Jalen’s black socks and strange fashion plunges, the arrogant-cum-hilarious style. Not a championship. Not even the echoes of fan enthusiasm from the past.

Coach Tommy Amaker had his own visions when he was hired in 2001. Like Tommy’s turtlenecks, sport jackets, and oversize slacks, the program now reflects his style: Play hard. Go to class. Play D. And be yourself. “Passion and Pride,” in Amaker-speak. But the Ws weren’t on the board, and the Michigan faithful were slow to see what was before them. Early this year, in the middle of Amaker’s third season, Crisler was as inert as any basketball venue on the planet. The games were like dead revival meetings in some forgotten and decaying crack of the Rust Belt.

It was a season of fits and starts. The team could play defense. They could rebound and run and handle the ball. More nights than not, they were on the same page. Unlike Brian Ellerbe’s teams and even some of Steve Fisher’s and Bill Frieder’s teams, they played as if they actually *knew* each other. But for most of the year Michigan just couldn’t shoot the rock. A coach’s job is to (a) give his team the opportunity to have the best looks possible at the basket and (b) limit the quality of those looks for the opposition. After (a) and (b), the vagaries of the game take over. Sometimes the ball goes in the hole. Sometimes it doesn’t.

Eleven games into the Big Ten season last year it was mostly the latter, with backcourt players Daniel Horton, Dion Harris, and Bernard Robinson Jr. shooting a combined 41 for 147 from beyond the three-point arc, a woe-ful 28 percent. Meanwhile, the Wolverines’ opponents were making 37 percent of their three-pointers. Accordingly, the Wolverines were losing 3.5 points per game in

relative shooting beyond the arc. And they lost four games in conference by five points or less.

That inability to hit the three kept the Wolverines out of the Big Dance last year. Indeed, just one more win in conference would have put them in. In all probability, one or two more three-pointers in the season would have made the difference.

By the time the rust had cleared in the Big Ten season, the Wolverines’ shooting had picked up. But it wasn’t enough, and Amaker’s team was relegated to the National Invitation Tournament, which from anything but a local perspective is a footnote on the college basketball scene. For the diehard junkie, though, the NIT contains more sinew than the NCAA. Less glitz and bling-bling. More real venues. More real fans.

And the 5,500 fans who showed up for the U-M’s opener against Missouri were the real thing, creating more

juice and noise in Crisler than I thought possible. For years I had rationalized how quiet the place was. The building “just absorbs the sound,” I’d say, and “Those cushioned seats just suck all the noise in.” I confess error. Maybe I was a cushioned seat.

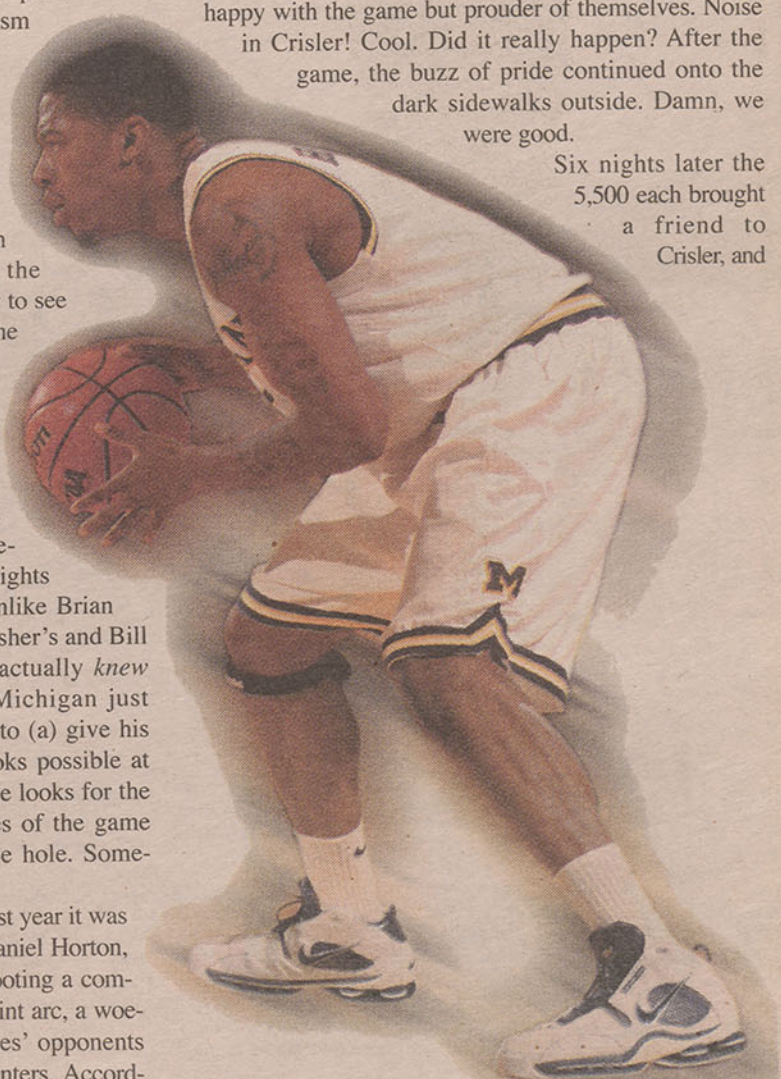
In the NIT opener, the Wolverines squeezed by a very good Missouri team 65–64. The 5,500 rallied, cajoled, ranted, squealed, howled, and just plain pushed the Wolverines over the top. “The crowd was very loud, and, yes, we noticed them,” power forward Chris Hunter said afterward. “The students were standing up and leading the chants, and that energized our players. They were phenomenal.”

Amaker and the coaching staff were stunned and ecstatic. The fans leaving the building that night were happy with the game but prouder of themselves. Noise in Crisler! Cool. Did it really happen? After the game, the buzz of pride continued onto the dark sidewalks outside. Damn, we were good.

Six nights later the 5,500 each brought a friend to Crisler, and



No one was more thrilled than coach Tommy Amaker when Crisler Arena lit up during last spring’s NIT. Now he hopes to extend that passion into the regular season. Guards Daniel Horton (above) and Dion Harris (right) look better than ever this year.



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SEND IN THE FANS

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11,000-plus fans exploded. Occasionally, in the Wolverines' eleven-point win over Oklahoma, a Michigan player looked to the crowd in astonishment, as if to say "Where did you guys come from?" And after the game, Amaker seemed to express his own sense that this was not the ordinary Michigan basketball experience. He mused, "It is really a nice atmosphere. Our players are talking about it. I am hoping that maybe this can be a springboard for the program in the future." He didn't seem too confident that it would happen again.

But two nights later, 10,300 loud fans showed up to see the Wolverines hammer on Hawaii 88-73. Indeed, Hawaii *complained* about the crowd in a sort of back-handedly complimentary fashion. Hawaii forward Julian Sensley lamented that the crowd "got to us." Coach Riley Wallace called the Michigan crowd "great" and "hostile." I looked this one up. The last time a visiting coach called a Crisler

In the NIT opener, the Wolverines squeezed by a very good Missouri team 65-64. The 5,500 fans on hand rallied, cajoled, ranted, squealed, howled, and just plain pushed the Wolverines over the top.

crowd "hostile" was, well . . . uh . . . let's see here . . . uh . . . never.

After the season, in July, I mentioned the NIT crowds to Amaker and asked him what he made of them. He was as surprised as I by the fan enthusiasm. Had I ever seen anything like it in Ann Arbor, he asked, perhaps during the Fab Five era?

Well, the mind plays tricks. I know there have been loud crowds at Crisler—sometimes very loud crowds. But I go back to day 1 at that mausoleum, and I can't recall three games like those. In my mind, those were the three loudest and most into-it crowds I had ever seen at Crisler—and the games were, in some limited sense at least, not "big" games. At the time, they just weren't.

In retrospect, though, I think they might have been the biggest games Michigan has played in quite some time—maybe the biggest ever for the program. The NIT run might mark the moment when Michigan basketball came back—the week when we were released from basketball purgatory into a new rebirth of hoops wonder.



y brief conversation with Amaker came during the week when Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was contemplating the huge pile of dough offered

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to him by the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers. There were hot rumors in Ann Arbor that Coach K was gone and that Amaker would be first in line for the Duke job. On the Internet and on talk radio, the story sizzled. The athletic department was mum to inquiries, fueling the speculation that Tommy's days in Ann Arbor were numbered.



Brent Petway (23) has unlimited potential once his basic skills improve. Courtney Sims (14) could be the Big Ten's best center. The task of replacing Bernard Robinson Jr. at small forward is likely to fall to Lester Abram (2).



year, I predict, they won't just be cooperative teammates—they will be of one mind.

With Robinson gone, it seems likely that junior Lester Abram will move to the small forward spot. Abram, the U-M's best shooter and most consistent and complete player, could overmatch many guards with his size (six feet six inches) and reach. He'll bring more offense to the team, especially on the perimeter, where Robinson was a liability. Plus, Robinson's ball handling and passing were often suspect. Abram's are solid.

While there is nothing in the game that Abram cannot do, he is not at Robinson's defensive level. The move to small forward will give him greater rebounding responsibilities, where he will have to bang with some larger and heavier players.

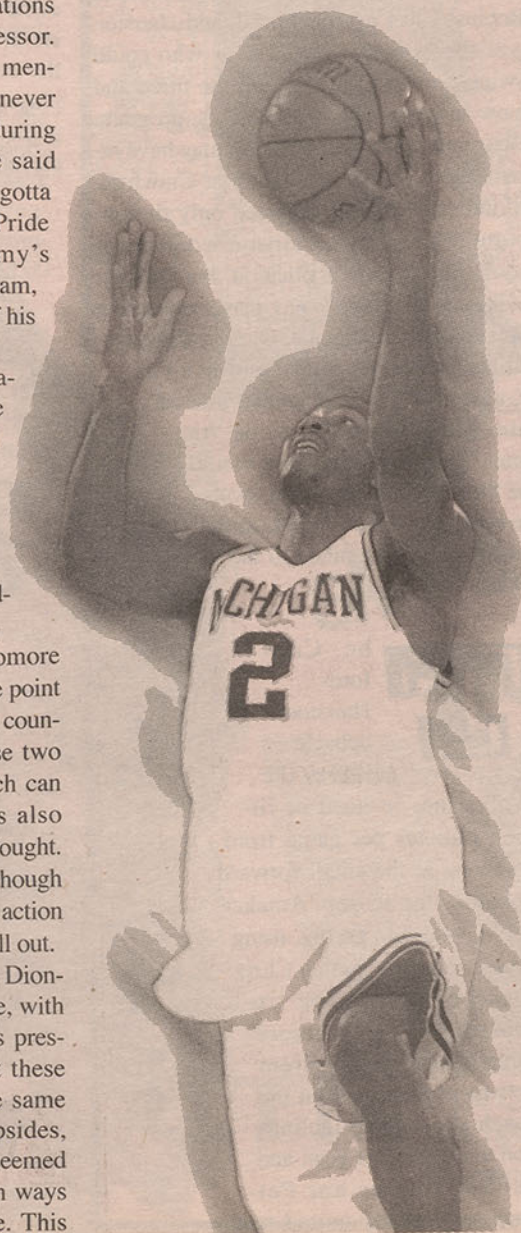
Abram will also rotate to the back-court when Daniel or Dion needs a blow. This poses the major problem facing Amaker this season: Dion can back up Daniel at the point, and Abram can back up Dion at the two. But who backs up Lester?

Fans who were paying attention fell into a sort of two-day funk and death watch, followed by strange speculations about Amaker's hypothetical successor. Was Coach Bob available? When I mentioned to Amaker that U-M fans had never been better than in the NIT—not during the Fab Five's time, not ever—he said with uncharacteristic tenacity, "We gotta keep these crowds. We have to." Pride and Passion and Purpose—Tommy's heart may (or may not) be in Durham, but it is clear some significant part of his soul is in Ann Arbor.

Michigan finished 23-11 last season, the best nonvacated record since before the Fabs. This year the U-M loses only Bernard Robinson Jr. However, "loses only" is an understatement, because the Wolverines are thin on the perimeter, and Robinson was the team's best defender and best finisher on the fast break.

Junior Daniel Horton and sophomore Dion Harris return as interchangeable point and off guards, and few teams in the country will have a better tandem. These two are big and strong and athletic. Each can shoot the ball, although each has also proved he can go into a shooting drought. Both can pass and break pressure, although neither has shown he can force the action to the basket and score or kick the ball out.

This summer, in pickup ball, the Dion-and-Daniel duo seemed more in tune, with each more able to sense the other's presence on the court. Last year I felt these were just two guys playing on the same team—good players with huge upsides, but that was it. This summer they seemed synergistic: each sensed the other in ways that ordinary vision can't delineate. This



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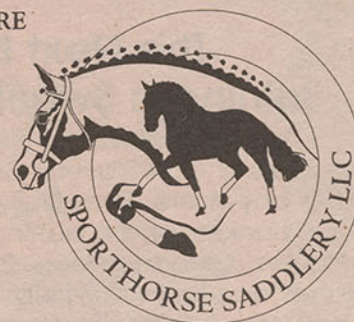
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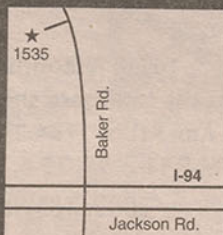
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SEND IN THE FANS

continued

Amaker attempted to solve this problem—and thought he had solved it—in the recruitment of combo guard Joe Crawford from Detroit Renaissance. Crawford, a sensational athlete who was considered one of the top twenty-five recruits in the country, was the teammate of another nationally recruited star, Malik Hairston. Hairston, in some recruiting circles, was considered better than Crawford—among the top fifteen in the national class. Michigan recruited both Crawford and Hairston early, but when Crawford made an oral commitment to the U-M, Amaker backed away from Hairston, despite Hairston's abilities. There wasn't room on the team for both.

As often happens in these circumstances, the early recruit is forgotten, and the media come to downplay his abilities. Joe Crawford, not feeling the love, went back on his word and, as an open-market commodity, became All World. This was the worst of all worlds for Amaker, because Crawford left the U-M twisting in the wind. Crawford made it clear that Michigan was still the main player in the game, still the leader for his services, but that he just needed to test the waters. He kept the U-M hanging on until the end—when he committed to Kentucky.

Meanwhile, Michigan began to recruit Malik Hairston, and hard. After all, Bernard Robinson had just graduated, and Hairston was the perfect fit, the player who could swing between the two and the three and have an immediate impact on the program. But rumor had it that Hairston may have resented the U-M's early jump at Crawford. Moreover, Michigan offered only the opportunity to play—Hairston would have come into a perfect situation, but Amaker makes no promises to any player other than opportunity. Meanwhile, Oregon transported Hairston to the West Coast in a Phil Knight (Nike) private jet and offered him the opportunity to be "the man," the player its team would be built around. Hairston swallowed this line—hook and sinker—and committed to the Ducks.



The Crawford-Hairston debacle leaves the

Wolverines in need of fifteen minutes per game from someone at the small forward position this season. Amaker could choose to go big, using near-seven-foot junior Chris Hunter or the incredible six-foot-eight sophomore jumper and runner Brent Petway at the spot. But the coach showed no inclination to do this last year, and neither Hunter nor Petway seems very suited to the

perimeter. My guess is the minutes are likely to fall to freshman Ron Coleman from Romulus.

Coleman, about six feet six but broader than Abram or Robinson, verbally committed to Amaker in his sophomore year in high school, and fell off the recruiting radar. A player once considered near the top of his class nationally, Coleman lost the attention of the talent scouts and media. Suddenly he was being described as just another good high school player, instead of one of the top five in the state. He wasn't even named first-team All State by the Detroit papers.

I would call this Joe Crawford syndrome—an early decider's supposed loss of ability once he is no longer a market commodity. In this instance Coleman's status in the media was less important to him than his word. I admit my myopia and bias, but from what I have seen, Ron Coleman can play. He has a sweet and effortless jumper with decent range. He is unselfish. He can handle the ball adequately and has a good first step to the basket. He is smart. He is a decent passer. He doesn't shy away from contact.

Coleman is nowhere near as athletic as Bernard Robinson, and he has a way to go on defense. But he has ability and a reasonably rounded game. He can give the Wolverines the fifteen minutes per game they will need this year. In the future he will give more.

Sophomore Courtney Sims is the likely starter at center. Sims had an estimable first season, but he was pushed around by some of the older and stronger post players in the Big Ten. Nevertheless, Sims led the conference in blocked shots, despite playing merely twenty-two minutes per game. In his freshman year the six-foot-eleven Sims was listed at 230 pounds; my guess is 215 was closer to the fact.

This year his weight is listed at 245, and

I would put him a few pounds heavier. Sims still has to improve his footwork and post moves, but it is certain that his game stepped up this summer. He is stronger, less prone to being

In the backcourt, junior Sherrod Harrell will get minutes; fans are unlikely to be disappointed by his defense and hustle. The real unknown this year is not the team, but the crowd—will it be business as usual, or a new rebirth?



PHOTO AMIR GAMZU/WOLVERINE PHOTO

pushed off the block. With the exception of Paul Davis at MSU, Sims could be the best center in the Big Ten. And Sims can do some things (block shots, jump, step out, and hit the three) that Davis can do only in his dreams.

Sims has help at center. Juniors Graham Brown and Chris Hunter have both proved they are capable of filling the spot. Brown (hurt for most of the summer), Hunter, Brent Petway, and J. C. Mathis (senior tricapitan and team leader) will compete for time at the power forward. Hunter, while still thin, has worked hard in the weight room and is noticeably stronger than in prior seasons. He has the inside track on minutes at the four spot, where his skills complement Sims's and where either can play on the block or away from the basket. Like Horton and Harris, Sims and Hunter have the advantage of flip-flopping while on the court.

Hunter will be pushed by the remarkable Petway, who can run and jump with anyone in the country. Petway needs to be stronger, needs to develop an intermediate shooting game, and needs to work on his post-up footwork. Still, Petway's potential is unlimited if and when his basic skills begin to improve. Give Petway a reliable eight-foot shot and he will be hard to keep off the floor.

The frontcourt depth is considerable, since Mathis is tough and can rebound, and seven-foot sophomore Amadou Ba continues to improve. In the backcourt, junior Sherrod Harrell will also get minutes; fans are unlikely to be disappointed by Harrell's defense and hustle. Sophomore John Andrews, a walk-on two guard, might also see some time.

This year's version of the Wolverines, absent significant injuries, should make it to the NCAA tournament. They should compete for the Big Ten title, although MSU and Illinois are the likely favorites.

The most salient question this year is not, however, about the performance of the team. I can't imagine it won't be solid. These players are big, tough, and experienced, and only injuries should keep them out of the top thirty in the country. Rather, the relevant question concerns the fans. Will it be business as usual for the Wolverine faithful—late to arrive and early to leave? Or will it be a new rebirth?

Ticket manager Marty Bodnar is uncertain there will be much carryover from the remarkable NIT turnout. He attributes that phenomenon to several predictable factors—there'd been no postseason action for so long, it was the end of the year, and the games had a certain, if limited, meaning. I would add one random factor: for whatever reason, 5,500 whack jobs showed up for the first game, and after that, the word got around that the games were fun.

Bodnar's concerns about business as usual at Crisler might be correct. I don't pretend that basketball fans are going to rouse the ghost of Fritz Crisler as passionately as the hockey crowds summon Fielding Yost. But while Amaker shouldn't expect NIT frenzies nightly, I believe that he will get his wish for a more active and noisy home for the basketball Wolverines.



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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Tips for avoiding the Truly Bad Gift.

by Laura and Tony McReynolds

The seasonally correct cliché is “It’s the thought that counts.” Most people take this to mean that any gift is welcome, no matter how inappropriate or lame. But the very essence of Truly Bad Gifts—and we’ve all gotten them—is precisely the lack of thought they so often demonstrate, like the kiddie magic set given to a high-schooler, or the electric blanket to someone who lives in southern California. A TBG might be something the giver secretly wants, like the cordless drill a man buys for his wife. Worse, it may be something the giver has decided the recipient *ought* to have, like a copy of *The South Beach Diet* given to an overweight relative.

Sometimes we unwittingly bring TBGs upon ourselves. A friend once apparently expressed too much gratitude for a set of penguin salt and pepper shakers (he was a Pittsburgh Penguins hockey fan). For years thereafter, he received unwanted penguins in all shapes and sizes from people who just assumed he had a thing for them.

In a perfect world, you would have kept in touch with all the people on your gift list throughout the year, remembering things they’d expressed a need for, noting their hobbies and passions, and jotting everything down, so that you could find each and every one of them a gift that would be Just What They’ve Always Wanted and How Did You Ever Know? But this is real life, where you’ve got enough trouble figuring out what’s for dinner, let alone trying to guess people’s innermost desires and remembering where you put last year’s leftover wrapping paper and gift tags. It might be the thought that counts, but when will you ever find time to think it?

That’s where we come in. While you were still putting together your Halloween costume, we were out on the streets, scouring the stores and ferreting out the best of the season. These aren’t just any old gift ideas: these are the items Ann Arbor’s retailers expect to sell big. In other words,

these are some of the hottest gifts on the market, and they’re readily available in local stores. They are, in effect, prequalified.

At Generations on Main Street, owner Karen Rothstein sells dozens of Rody inflatable horses (\$42) every year, and she is, to the best of her knowledge, the only Ann Arbor retailer to carry them. These ride-on ponies are made in Italy of soft, latex-free vinyl; they come in a variety of cheerful, bright colors, and they’re wonderfully fun—kids just hold on to the ears and bounce away. Although they’ve been tested to handle up to 400 pounds, they’re recommended for ages two to four.

Also at Generations, we found a variety of \$25 Young Scientist Club sets, winner of the Dr. Toy 100 Best Children’s Products award. Set number 2 prepares your child to “become a meteorologist, chemist, and volcanologist” and teaches how to create goop, make a bouncing ball, and produce a volcanic explosion. Sounds like an average day in the life of a toddler, but perhaps as children get older, they need a refresher course in creating chaos.

Down the street, Hoi Polloi carries ultrachic handbags by Disney-cartoonist-turned-pop-artist Debbie Brooks, whose limited-edition purses were among the treats given to this year’s celebrity Oscar presenters. One of the purses, entitled the Shoe Fits, is a petite hard-shell construction bag covered in luxurious croc-imprinted black leather; it features Brooks’s trademark whimsical artwork—in this case, a fantasy depiction of a perfect day in a shoe salon, complete with unlimited credit. The purses are cute, they’re hip, and they come with almost unlimited name-dropping potential: “Oh, this? Yes, I think Cameron Diaz has one, too.”

If you prefer your purses to be more representational, head across the street to Jules Furniture, where there are translucent glass vas-

es shaped like handbags, with interesting patterns like zebra or leopard spots and tortoiseshell. At \$26, they’re perfect for holding flowers, makeup brushes, or other girly stuff.

Believe it or not, one of fashion’s hottest trends is outfitting yourself in wood pulp. Otherwise known as Tencel, this silky, ecofriendly fabric made from trees is favored by designer label Too Fan, whose gorgeously draped creations are among the top sellers at Seychelle, the clothing boutique hidden behind Jules. Mix-and-match pieces, including shirts, skirts, and pants, start at \$94.

Know people who spend a lot of time on their feet? Give them Crocs (\$30 and up), also at Seychelle, a new breed of



shoe that combines the comfort of orthotically designed clogs with a space age material the manufacturer calls “patented closed-cell resin,” which warms and softens with your body heat and molds to your feet. The closed-cell part is key, because it makes the shoes resistant to the bacteria and fungi that cause shoe and foot odor. Even better, Crocs come in bright colors and are cute and flattering, so recipients need never know you think their feet stink.

Pearls transcend trends; they’re timeless, and there are very few females over eighteen months old who wouldn’t be delighted to get them. Aurum Jewelry West, inside Forma Gallery on Main, carries lovely black, pink, gray, or white pearl earrings starting at \$70. If diamonds are your girl’s idea of a best friend, Aurum also has sleek, industrial-looking diamond rings with high-tech steel bands. Made in Germany, they look it, and range from \$200 to \$450.

Mosaic Sphere, on Ashley, displays an amazing blue-on-blue mosaic portrait of Albert Einstein that features anywhere from ten to 100 pieces of tile per square inch, depending on what part of the mosaic you’re looking at. It’s not for sale, but it might inspire you to commission a portrait of a child, pet, or other revered subject. If someone on your shopping list is artistically inclined, consider a gift certificate for a mosaic-making class, \$35.

Help someone discover the subtle niceties of snail mail with a beginner’s fountain pen set from Pen in Hand on Fourth Avenue. At \$30, it includes a classic Waterman fountain pen and six ink cartridges in lovely, legible colors. For those who are straddling the world between traditional and digital media, a box of Clipiola paper clips, \$8, bridges the gap and makes a nice stocking stuffer. Avail-



Debbie Brooks’s whimsical purses are at Hoi Polloi.
(Above right) Inflatable Rody horses at Generations.



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HOLIDAY GUIDE continued

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One of the most encouraging trends in recent years is the DIY craze as espoused by youth-oriented magazines like *Ready-Made*, which details how to make new stuff from old (one fascinating article showed how to mold gorgeous wavy bowls from old, oven-warmed LPs). DIY is also the theme at hip Nickels Arcade boutique Henrietta Fahrenheit, which sells cuff-style bracelets (\$84) and rings (\$33) made from recycled beer cans—including Miller, Boddingtons, Lone Star, and Pabst—and minidresses made from recycled T-shirts and fabric scraps, from designer Melissa Dettloff of Eastpointe. Just \$36, the dresses come in "blackish, greenish, bluish, or reddish" (each piece is custom made) and feature string that ties, halterlike, around the neck, and fabric ruffles at the bottom. Dettloff's website dubs this "a T-shirt for the brave," because of its microlength. The rest of us can wear it over jeans.

If you watch cable TV, you already know that televised poker is one of cable's biggest draws—in particular, the no-limit brand of poker known as Texas Hold 'Em. Urban Outfitters, on State, stocks a kit with everything you need (except card sense) to play poker like the pros, including felt mat, poker chips, cards, and instructions for greenhorns. At \$20, it's considerably cheaper than a trip to Las Vegas.

Decades ago, songwriters Peter Allen and Carole Bayer Sager told us that "everything old is new again," and it's as true now as it was then. Fashion and home decor continue to celebrate mid-twentieth-century design with items like Urban Outfitters' Sputnik Light, a wall-hung silver sunburst that manages to make retro and contemporary statements simultaneously—a feat well worth the \$34 price tag.

Everything old is simply and unabashedly, well, old at Arcadian Antiques in the Nickels Arcade, but some items there are downright hot, especially the English and Norwegian compacts that date back as far as the 1920s. Most are

sterling silver overlaid with decorative glass enamel; they start at \$200, and they've become prized collectibles among people who want to powder their noses in style. Pair one with a miniature 1920s cut-glass perfume bottle from Czechoslovakia for \$100, caged in delicate brass and perfect for wearing on a slender chain around the neck.

While you're in the Arcade, head into Maison Edwards and pick up a few twig crayons as stocking stuffers. Made of stout twigs complete with bark, they're \$3, they come in all the standard crayon colors, and they are to Crayolas what a redwood is to a Japanese maple. For those who need a little added jolt along with that first cup of caffeine to get them going in the morning, consider the Maison's mugs with something extra. Imagine their surprise when they set down their half-finished coffee only to find a speckled trout poking its head out of the brew and staring back at them. Priced at \$26, the gleaming white mugs come with a variety of painted ceramic animals sitting at the bottom, including crocodiles, ducks, elephants, and, somewhat disturbingly, puppies.

Japanese anime is more popular than ever, and so are the licensed characters. In fact, for one eagerly anticipated cartoon feature that doesn't even come out until next year, young fans are snapping up the collectibles already. If any people on your list are into anime, get the jump on what fans say is sure to be next year's big thing with a set of six two-inch-tall *Full Metal Alchemist* action figures for \$10 at Wizzywig on Liberty at Thompson. If inaction is more their style, give them a \$22 *Full Metal Alchemist* pillow instead.

On November 11, 1938, in Bergen County, New Jersey, a twenty-two-year-old Hoboken man was arrested on a charge of "seduction." He was duly fingerprinted and photographed, and in his mug shot he is holding a card identifying him as prisoner number 42799. The arrest form shows his occupation as "singer." The precise nature of his crime is still not clear, even though he went on to become one of the most written-about entertainers of the last century. Now you can own this grainy



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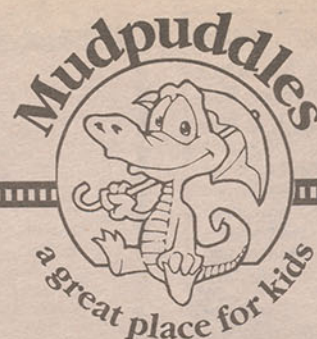
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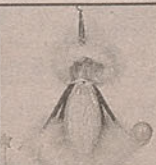
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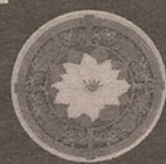
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HOLIDAY GUIDE continued



Young people's collectibles: Fall Metal
Alchemist anime figures at Wizzywig.

photo of Francis Albert Sinatra, blown up
into a handsome, full-size framed portrait
that includes the relevant part of the arrest
report. In an age when chairmen of the
board routinely do time, it only goes to
show that Ol' Blue Eyes was always ahead
of his. It's \$85 at Beyond the Wall posters
and prints on South University.

If you were a major geek or a colossal
dork back in the late 1970s (defined by an
employee of Underworld Comics &
Games on South University and self-
described major geek as anyone who spent
every Saturday night in college playing
Dungeons and Dragons), consider yourself
vindicated. The classic sword-and-sorcery
game that started it all is back and more
popular than ever—pretty remarkable in
the age of the Xbox. You don't even need
a game board, but the rules get pretty com-
plicated, so you might want to pick up a
copy of the 300-page player handbook.
They're \$30 at Underworld Comics and
they're flying out the door.

Something else that's come full circle:
comic books. It used to be that comics
were for kids, but sometime during the last
twenty years, they grew up and turned into
an art form. In fact, so many comics are
now aimed at adults and deal with adult
themes that Marvel Comics recently had
to launch a new line of comic books just
for preteens. Called Marvel Age Comics,
they feature classic Marvel characters like
Spider-Man but without the grown-up
content. You can pick up the latest issue of
Marvel Age Spider-Man at Underworld
Comics for \$2.25.

The Village Corner's wine selection
can be a little intimidating, but its selec-
tion of things wine-related is just plain
fun. There's the \$15 Corkfish, for exam-
ple—four slender steel rods attached to a
plunger. When a cork gets trapped in a
bottle, simply insert the Corkfish, grab the
cork with the rods, and pull it out. Some-
one who does a lot of entertaining might
appreciate a set of stemware ID tags. Have
guests write their names on the tiny discs
and hook the discs to the stems of their
wineglasses, and they'll never pick up the
wrong glass again. Fifty reusable tags and
a marker are \$7.

Buddhists say that insight into change
teaches us to embrace our experiences
without clinging to them. Give the gift of
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your artwork disappears after five minutes. It's a perfect gift for those who practice the Zen art of living in the moment, or for those who are never satisfied with the way their drawings turn out.

Hollander's also sells a neat card-making kit that includes patterned and colored papers, a stencil with twenty-two designs, stickers, scissors, a selection of templates, and a booklet with step-by-step instructions for making more than twenty-five cards and envelopes. If you're lucky, the recipient will thank you with one of his or her own creations.



Sinatra's mag shot at Beyond the Wall.

When we were growing up, we had simple piggy banks. For \$25, today's kids can own a safe cleverly disguised as a book, complete with keypad entry and motion-activated alarm, from Westgate Shopping Center's Learning Express. Parents who think what was good enough for them should be good enough for their kids can pick up an old-fashioned white ceramic piggy for \$7.

Learning Express is also riding one of the biggest trends in the market, kiddie spyware: listening devices, night goggles, wristcams, tracking systems—everything the average kid needs to “discover the enemy's secrets, communicate secretly to friends, and destroy the message before counteragents intercept it, all before dinner,” according to Wild Planet, the manufacturer. Hint: in case you're wondering, the “enemy” is probably you, so buy these for your kids at your own risk.

According to Tivoli Audio, everybody needs a PAL—as in noted audio engineer and Tivoli principal Henry Kloss's portable audio laboratory. It's a sassy high-fidelity portable radio that's about the size of a pop-up tissue box, weighs only 3.5 pounds, and comes in an assortment of fun colors, including neon yellow, electric blue, and sunset red. It's won rave reviews from the audio industry, and Big George's, on Stadium, expects to sell a lot of them this season. It's \$130.

Any fly fisherman would love one of the handmade fly boxes (\$50) available at Colton Bay Outfitters on Jackson Road. Handcrafted in Pinckney from lacewood, walnut, bird's-eye maple, or cedar, they

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Flatsnoots comes to Ann Arbor to erect our portable arbor and to do some urban camping. To see old friends and to meet new friends. To enjoy ourselves and not to be boneheads, and perhaps to sell a few Christmas trees and wreaths.

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feature black appliques of outdoorsy scenes on the front, like a fisherman in a trout stream or a cabin nestled in the woods. The same artisan makes handcrafted fly rod cases starting at \$150, with leather-and-brass carrying hardware.

Scrapbooking is such a well-established craze that you can hardly turn around in a crowded room without bumping people who are into it. Any one of them would love a Scrapfolio: a seven-pocket, opaque plastic folder with zipper and carrying handle that holds up to 300 sheets at a time—perfect for toting current scrapbook projects around. Available at the Scrap Yard on Zeeb, it's \$17. For \$155, you can buy your scrapbooker the Cadillac of portable storage systems: the Crop-in-Style wheeled storage container with saddlebags, zippered sides, and a top that pops up to form a four-foot workspace with built-in shelves for organizing.

Who would have thought that after a couple billion years in our earth's atmosphere, oxygen should suddenly be the



Henry Kloss's PAL radio at Big George's.

Next Big Thing? At Briarwood's Euphoria Oxygen Bar, you can pick up tiny oxygen blast "oxygen shooters," which deliver a concentrated blast of pure oxygen, plant-derived potassium, and magnesium for \$3.50 each. You can also get something called the Nexcite Aphrodisiac Drink, a nonalcoholic berry-flavored beverage; its herbs, berries, and seeds, including damiana, ginseng, guarana, maté, and schizandra, are alleged to have aphrodisiac-like qualities. Does it work? We haven't tried it, but no less an authority than Fox News calls it "the king of the kinky drinkies," and Bill O'Reilly ought to know.

If you're under ten, your Next Big Thing is likely to be dinosaurs. Williams-Sonoma Grande Cuisine sells nonstick dinosaur-shaped pancake molds (\$16) and cookie cutters (\$20), including a triceratops, a stegosaurus, and what looks like either a brachiosaurus or an apatosaurus—your average four-year-old will be able to tell you which. And for those old enough to wield a knife, Williams-Sonoma's stag-horn-handled carving set, \$250, would make an impressive and thoughtful gift—especially for whoever usually gets stuck carving the holiday roast.

Inside almost every man is a little boy who still dreams of making it in the big leagues. Give a guy you know something to daydream over: a doe-colored baseball paperweight from the Coach Store, hand-stitched in "glove-tanned" leather and perfect for hefting thoughtfully with a

THE MACS' POLISH DINNER

Two days after Christmas, family members begin pulling up in front of John and Lindsay Bogdasarian's large new northwest-side house. Lindsay belongs to the fourth generation of a Detroit Polish American family. Her mom, Judy Mac, is part of the third generation. Judy gets together every year with her sisters, Barb, Liz, and Paula, and their brothers, Phil, Mike, and Greg, for a family rite they call simply "the Polish dinner." Their dad, Frank Mac, eighty-nine, is beaming in the family room.

Frank Mac's parents, who were born in Poland, came to Detroit in 1913, attracted by Henry Ford's \$5-a-day jobs. His mother never learned to speak English. "We were poor," he recalls. "My mother managed to scrape together food for Christmas—sauerkraut and sausage, stuffed cabbage, pierogi." Frank met Helen, whose parents were also Polish, at a dance club; they married in September 1941. Helen died in November 1980, and the family's Polish dinner tradition started that December. "My mom's dying brought us together—the need to be close," says Paula.

Growing up, the Macs saw all of their Polish relatives at the holidays. "We'd have fifty to fifty-five people" in a small basement, recalls Liz, who is in town from Maryland with her husband and three children. "Now, at Lindsay and John's, a new generation is hosting it."

A crowd of about thirty are soon jostling one another in the Bogdasarians' family room, kitchen, and dining room. The bustling kitchen is laced with delectable smells. Frank leads everyone in singing a Christmas carol in Polish; the title translates as "Today in Bethlehem." Phil, Mike, and Greg are hovering over the stove, frying up the pierogi. The day before, Mike, who came in from Missouri, and Phil, who lives in Maryland, met at Barb's house in Plymouth to help her make and boil the dumplings. "The trick of making good pierogi is to



The Macs: Mike, Greg, Liz Brown, Phil, Judy, Paula, Barb Farrell, and Frank.

make them thick enough to hold the potatoes in, but thin enough to hold together when you boil them," says Mike.

In addition to the pierogi dough, Mike also is in charge of the *kapusta*, or sauerkraut. "My grandmothers had different styles of cooking," he says. "Kapusta on both sides tasted different." Mike's strategy is to add split peas, which is Polish, and to drain but not rinse the sauerkraut.

Paula always brings the stuffed cabbage. Hers is delicious and light, made this year with beef and veal. Greg has brought both fresh and smoked kielbasa from Dearborn Sausage. (They used to make it themselves, in Barb's basement.) Barb is stirring her dill pickle soup. The soup wasn't part of their childhood celebrations, but everyone likes it. "Judy does Mom's torte," says Paula. The torte isn't Polish, but Helen made it every Christmas.

Barb remarks that their mother's six siblings lost the old traditions as their children got married and established their own families. "We still do the cooking, and it is a tiring day," she says. But it reminds her of "how important individual lives are decades later. Imitating, remembering, thinking of them—they live in so much."

The food is ready, and the cooks spread it across the kitchen's center island. Frank Mac begins to speak, reminding everyone to think "for a moment about those who we have lost."

After her father says grace, Judy looks around at her extended family lining up for the buffet. "Helen would be proud," she says.

—Penny Schreiber

Mike Mac's Kapasta with Split Peas

(Serves eight)

1½ lb. country ribs
6 oz. green split peas
1 large onion

1 32-oz. jar plain sauerkraut
1 Tbs. butter or margarine
Black pepper

Layer ribs in bottom of a pot; cover with water and bring to boil. Simmer for 35–45 minutes, adding water to cover. Put peas in small saucepan and cover with water; bring to boil and simmer, keeping enough liquid to cover. Stir occasionally with fork until peas are consistency of mashed potatoes.

Remove ribs from liquid. Leave liquid in pot and put in refrigerator (or outside in winter). When fat has hardened, remove (my heftier ancestors would probably disapprove of getting rid of all that good fat). Trim cooled meat into smaller-than-bite-size pieces.

Chop the onion and sauté in butter until transparent.

Open sauerkraut and drain in colander, saving juice. I don't rinse the kraut because I want it to stay tart. If you want it even tarter, add back some of the juice later.

Add the kraut, onions, and pork to the pot of defatted liquid. Stir often with a wooden spoon.

Add peas slowly to simmering pot. The final product should have some liquid at the top, but when placed on the plate it should not run into the marshmallows on your mandarin salad.

Add freshly ground black pepper to taste, and you're done.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE continued

faraway look in the eye. It's \$38. Coach also carries dozens of cunning "wristlets," snappy little handbags with a wrist strap that leave no room for digging around for your keys, \$68-\$138. And let us not forget man's best friend: for Fido, a pink and baby blue patent-leather dog collar with enamel heart or star charm, \$52.

You forget to measure the wall before you go to buy a bookcase for it. Or you write the measurements down and forget to take the measurements to the store. We all do it; we all kick ourselves over it. Brookstone solves this minor though seemingly universal problem with a voice-recording tape measure that records dimensions and project details while you

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work and handily replays them in sequence. For \$25, you also get a spring-steel belt clip and a carrying case.

Von Maur has declared designer Marvin Richards's cashmere-wool blend three-quarter-length coat the "hottest coat of the year." With clever moon-shaped pockets and back belt and tempting colors like black, cream, soft pink, and baby blue, it is pretty cool-looking, in a retro sort of way. It's \$225.

Babies are cute wearing just about anything—including half a jar of strained peas, as long as you're not wearing the other half—but they'd provide especially fine photo ops in an adorable bear bunting (\$30), complete with rich cocoa color, little ears, and detachable "paw" mittens, from the Children's Place. The store also sells "authentic" hockey jerseys for toddlers and preschoolers, with the logos and colors of imaginary teams, including the Hammerheads, the Arctic Foxes, the Blizzards, and the Turtles. They're \$20, face masks not included.

Do the kids keep arguing over what to watch on that DVD player in your minivan? Get them each their own VideoNow personal video player, a five-by-four-inch, battery-powered video player on which they can watch personal video discs (PVDs), which are, not surprisingly, sold separately. It's \$60, at Target.

You probably know at least one person who calls Target "Tar-zhay." (These are often the same people who say "flog" instead of "golf.") Maybe it irritates you, maybe it doesn't (okay, it irritates us), but either way, you know where to get them the perfect designer gift. Target has not only snagged celebrated architect Michael Graves to create everything from toasters to—we kid you not—toilet brushes (\$7.99), it's also landed high-personality

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clothing designer Isaac Mizrahi, who has delivered this year with his Kelly driving moccasins—square-toed, beribboned mocs in jelly-bean colors with rubber soles and silver accents. They cost \$27 and look especially smart with Capri pants.

For low-carb Christmas treats, head for the LoCarb Center on North Main. The gourmet cookies from Natural Ovens Bakery are big sellers; for \$4.50 you get ten gourmet cookies in flavors like walnut spice, almond, and chocolate chip. And a guy named Baja Bob has managed to make low-carb tropical drink mixes starting at \$5 in margarita and piña colada flavors that you'd be hard pressed to tell from their high-carb counterparts.

If carb counting isn't an issue, you can get bulk rates on holiday favorites at By the Pound on Main Street. Roasted salted cashews are \$6 a pound, and deluxe mixed nuts go for \$5.49. A bag fits perfectly wedged into the toe of a Christmas stocking. More fragile, but equally addictive: Pepperidge Farm goldfish crackers—and who knew you could get them in bulk? By the Pound did, and has them for \$3.49 a pound.

If you know any pool players looking to improve their game, Allstate Billiards and Patio Furniture on Washtenaw can help with the \$26 Jim Rempe special pool training ball. Rempe's a world champion player, and he designed it to teach people how to put correct English on the cue ball. The ball has a diagram like the face of a clock on each side, and depending on

where you strike it with your cue—anywhere from high, low, right, and left to subtle gradations in between—you'll send the cue ball just where you want it to go. Theoretically. Like anything else, it takes practice, but most people see results after one session.

Irony meets audio at Talking Book World on Washtenaw with the Blank Book, an audiobook that is—you guessed it—a blank cassette. "More than a collection of unspoken thoughts," reads the copy, "it's a much-needed antidote to the chaotic clangor of life in the information age."

Irony lasts only so long; if you know people who are making a long drive home after the holidays, they'll probably need a real tape. When it comes to keeping peace on the road, some neighbors of ours can attest to the power of Potter—Harry Potter audiobooks at Talking Book World, \$25 per cassette and \$45–\$50 for a CD, read by multitalented narrator Jim Dale. The series carried their family—including two kids under age five—all the way to Vermont and back with nary a peep.

Fantasy Attic, on Packard, isn't just for Halloween, it's also a great place to find stocking stuffers or supplies for a child's dress-up chest, including animal snouts, ears, and tails (\$2 each); cowboy, police, and firefighter hats (\$4 and up); and clown novelty items like a squeaky red nose (\$2), oversize scissors (\$2), and giant clown shoes (\$26). You can also buy Santa hats or rent an entire Santa getup—but you'll want to make sure your recipient opens

your package before Christmas Eve and that the kids are in bed.

A snowboard lock might seem like overkill, but at one Michigan ski resort, at least half a dozen snowboards get stolen each week. Red Belly Boardshop, on Plymouth Road, has a \$15 retractable cable with combination lock that fits in the palm of the hand. Or you can get someone started snowboarding with a \$400 package that includes board, boots, and bindings—best given in the form of a gift certificate, so the boots can be custom fitted. Even cooler: kite boarding, a water sport that's a cross between windsurfing and board surfing. You do it on a board, but instead of using a sail or being towed by a boat, you're attached to a fifteen-square-meter kite. Red Belly offers a complete package, including harness, board, kite, line, bar, and a four-hour lesson, for \$1,400.

Bello Vino, in the Plymouth Mall, has plenty of great bottles of wine that would make fine gifts, but it takes a lot of time to go through them. For \$60 the Bello Vino staff does the work for you with a monthly wine "six-pack"—six bottles of staff-picked favorites in a carrying case. November's six-pack included an intriguing French Pinot Noir from Alsace, regularly \$12 a bottle, and the South African Fairview "Goats-Do-Room" (recipients will feel clever when they get the pun), regularly \$10.99.

For a trend from the past, check out the Dixboro General Store, where we found a tin box of multicolored tiddlywinks for

THE CANFORAS' ITALIAN CHRISTMAS

When Anselmo Canfora was a kid growing up in Chicago, he lived in two cultures. "I grew up feeling Italian," he says. "You stepped into a part of Italy in our household."

Every night Anselmo, his younger sister, Maria, and his Italian-born parents sat down to a two-hour meal of multiple courses. When he invited friends to dinner, they'd ask incredulously, "Do you eat like this every night?"

Anselmo's parents, Biagio and Luisa, retired to Italy in 2000, but his mother was soon diagnosed with a fatal illness. The Christmas after her death, Anselmo's father flew to Ann Arbor. After raiding Mr. Dee's on Jackson Road for seafood, he prepared a traditional Italian Christmas Eve dinner for Anselmo and Maria; Anselmo's girlfriend, Becky Brown; and Becky's mother and sister. This past December, Anselmo and Maria made a bittersweet trip to spend the holidays with their dad and their parents' extended families in southern Italy. "For my sister and me," says Anselmo, "going to Italy was about remembering our mother."

"Christmas lasts four days in Italy, from the twenty-third to the twenty-sixth," says Anselmo, thirty-six, who until July taught at the U-M college of architecture. Food and wine are the centerpiece all four days, but Christmas Eve and Christmas Day feature the most important meals.

On Christmas Eve, eight relatives gathered at the house of Anselmo's Aunt Maria, his mother's youngest sister. "On Decem-

ber twenty-fourth, everything is fish," he says, "everything you can imagine." A first course of prosciutto wrapped around both cantaloupe and fresh mozzarella was followed by octopus in vinegar, fried octopus (calamari), fried stingray, and salt-cured cod. Pasta, the third course, was dressed with fish sauce, and it included a baby lobster called "cicala."

Next on the table was *merluzzo*, a small whitefish floured and fried lightly. It was followed by baby eel broiled in olive oil, and baked roughly. "Everyone eats just one or two pieces of what is served—just to taste," notes Anselmo.

Uncle Lillino provided his homemade wine. "It is very, very, very red," says Anselmo, "so red it stains the glass—eighteen proof, a little sweet, and very robust." Like the food portions, the wine is about quality, not quantity. "If anyone drinks over two glasses of wine, someone says, 'Why are you drinking so much? What number is that?'"

The seafood is served with rapini stewed in olive oil, tomatoes, and garlic. Sometimes there's broccoli, and always a lot of chicory and raw fennel. Bowls of sorbet cleanse the palate, and then more fish is served and then more fennel. Rustic Italian bread and focaccia, usually with tomatoes and olives, are always on the table, along with the wine. "A host never takes these off the table,"

Anselmo Canfora in the kitchen.

says Anselmo. "It would be a sign you want the guests to leave."

After two weeks, Anselmo flew home to Ann Arbor. This past summer he and Becky moved to Charlottesville, where he now teaches at the University of Virginia. In December Biagio will fly in to help them celebrate the holidays. On Christmas Eve he will once again cook seafood for his children and for Becky and her family. As they gather around the table, Anselmo will be looking to the future and thinking of his mother. "I want to raise my children," he says, "the way I was raised."

—Penny Schreiber

Insalata di Pesce (Seafood Salad)


(Serves six)

2 lb. mussels
1 lb. shrimp
1 lb. squid
8 oz. lobster tail
2 lb. baby clams
2 lb. crab legs
2 lb. octopus

3 ribs chopped celery
1 c. Italian parsley, coarsely chopped
1 clove garlic, sliced
1 c. (or to taste) good white wine vinegar
1 c. (or to taste) extra virgin olive oil
Pepper; kosher salt

Clean all seafood, removing shells, except lobster tail and crab legs (cook those in shell and remove meat). Blanch each seafood separately, 3–5 minutes in salted water. Cool each batch. Cut all seafood (except mussels and clams) in half-inch pieces. Combine in one large bowl. Add next four ingredients. Mix. Chill 1 hour, tossing now and then. Serve on chilled plates.






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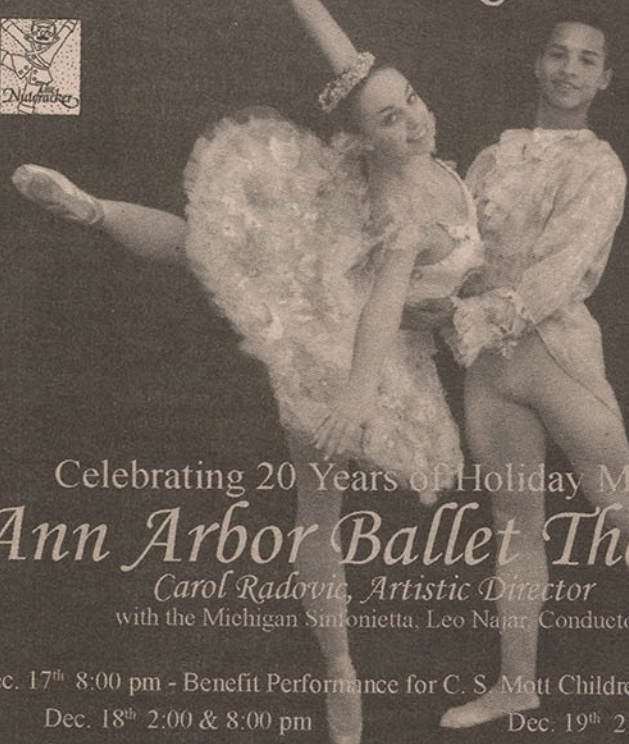
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HOLIDAY GUIDE continued

\$11, complete with an exhaustive twenty-page booklet on the history of the game (or you could skip the booklet and wait for the nine-part Ken Burns documentary). Also at Dixboro: a jumbo brass jacks set, including six inch-and-a-half brass jacks, two balls, a leather pouch,

and an instruction book of tips and techniques, for \$8, and a boxed pro baseball with an exhaustive twenty-page historical handbook for \$11 (highly recommended for those who haven't seen the nine-part Ken Burns documentary).

Finally, there's one timeless Truly Bad Gift that's *supposed* to be bad: a gift bag of genuine Kentucky lump coal, perfect for those who've been naughty instead of nice. It's \$5 at Downtown Home & Garden. ■



Ton Broos lights the tree.

CANDLES ON THE TREE

Janet de Vries was not going to celebrate Christmas in 1984. Her husband, Jan, had died earlier in the month. But on Christmas Eve the doorbell rang. Janet opened the door to Ton Broos, who handed her a Christmas tree. Ton, a Dutchman like Jan, had moved to Ann Arbor in 1982 and become a mutual friend of the couple.

Janet and Ton married in 1986, and almost every Christmas Eve since, they have hosted a dinner in their west-side home. The celebration combines Janet's Italian heritage with Ton's Dutch traditions, with a dash of British holiday spirit tossed in: because Ton lived in England for a while, Dylan Thomas and Christmas crackers are always part of the evening.

Preparations start the weekend before Christmas, when Janet and Ton cut a Douglas fir and put it in their garage to keep it fresh. They bring it inside on Christmas Eve.

The festivities begin at dusk with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the living room. All electric lights are turned off, the fireplace crackles, and candles glow around the room. The centerpiece of the celebration is the Douglas fir, which is covered with candleholders from the Netherlands. Starting from the top, Ton lights the candles, and then plays holiday music on the piano—badly, he says. “I blame it on the candles.” They “always keep a bucket of water next to the tree,” says Janet, “and a spray bottle of water.”

All the guests bring a reading. “We have a song, a story, a song, a story,” says Janet. One year an Israeli couple read modern Israeli poetry in translation and in Hebrew. A guest has read Isaac Bashevis Singer, and another has recited her own poetry. Ton always reads Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Then, as the candles are going out on the tree, Janet finishes with “The Night before Christmas.”

Everyone moves into the dining room around 8:30, and the rest of the evening is spent around the table. Janet plans the meal in advance with some of her guests, but the first and final courses never change. In memory of Janet's Italian mother, the meal starts with Maria Grazia's Christmas soup and ends with her *zuppa inglese*.

Maria Grazia Governatore made her Christmas soup with homemade meat stock, escarole, ground veal and beef, eggs, Parmesan cheese, and herbs. She never made it at any other time of the year, and she never followed a recipe or wrote anything down. “It seems strange now,” says Janet, “but I never made the Christmas soup on my own until long after my mother's death.” Janet has searched through cookbooks but has never found another recipe even remotely like it. The *zuppa inglese*, a rich amalgam of pound cake, custard, chocolate, and liqueurs, also was a special Christmas treat; Janet's family rarely had real dessert after their meals.

On Christmas Day Ton and Janet sleep and read the paper. “We really just crash, be lazy, and eat leftovers,” says Janet. Since their marriage, the couple have been out of town at Christmas a few times. “Once we were in Spain. Another time we were in Holland,” says Janet. But they prefer to be with friends in Ann Arbor for the holiday: “We make a point of being home.”

—Penny Schreiber

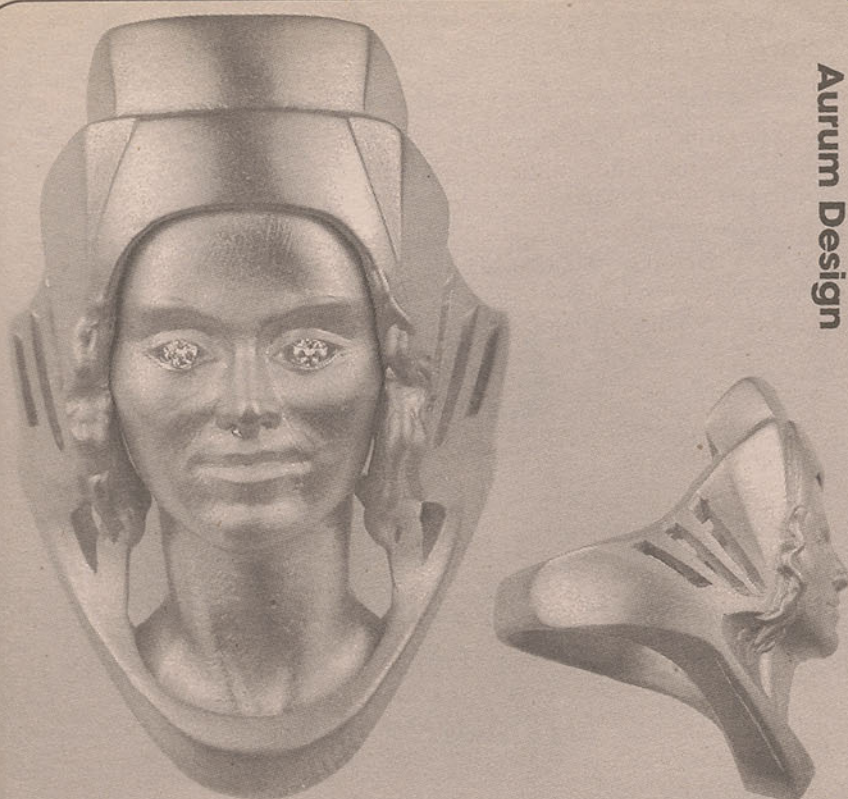
Maria Grazia's Christmas Soup

(Serves ten to twelve)

- 4 qt. rich stock (best idea: combine homemade chicken and meat stock)
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 lb. lean ground veal
- 1 med. onion finely chopped
- 1 large head of escarole (9 c. chopped, reserve 1 c. for finish)
- 1 c. Parmesan cheese
- 6-8 eggs
- 1 c. parsley chopped & tightly packed (reserve ½ c. for garnish)
- 2 Tbs. fresh thyme or ¼ tsp. dried thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 c. sliced carrots
- 1 c. chopped celery

Wash and dry greens well. Lightly sauté beef and veal with onions. Do not brown—cook until moisture and fat are rendered out; put in large bowl. Add finely chopped greens to meat; add next five ingredients. Put in an ovenproof casserole and bake at 325F for thirty minutes, or until well set. Remove and cool. (Can be done day before and refrigerated.) To serve: Heat broth in large pot; add carrots and celery. When vegetables are tender, crumble meat-greens finely and add to broth. Heat through. Five minutes before serving, add 1 c. uncooked escarole. Garnish bowls with parsley, and pass extra Parmesan.

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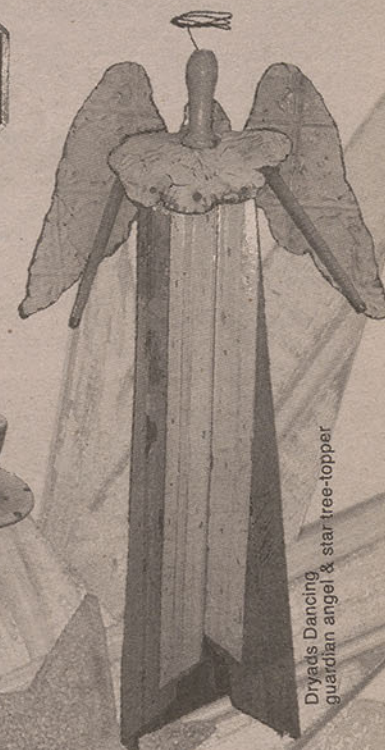
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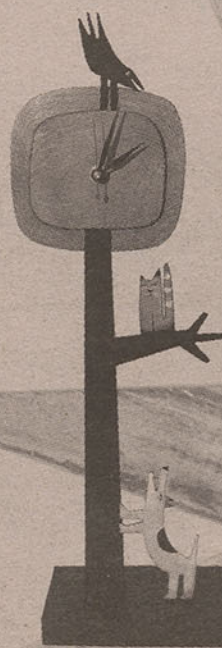
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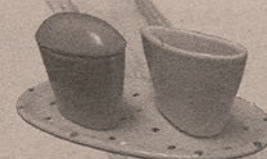
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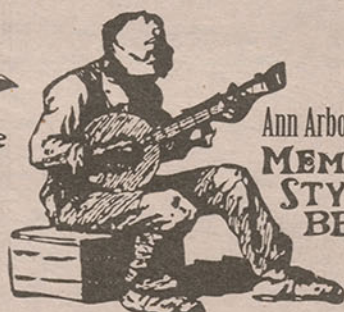
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RESTAURANTS



Brunch bunch

Prickly Pear, Gandy Dancer, Amadeus

Sunday morning has a sacred routine, whether or not it involves a worship service. It will vary according to the subjects' age; their partnering—and nest—status (empty, full, or in flux); and the degree of sleep deficit or desired snooze surplus. As nest and sleep patterns tend to ebb and flow around the holidays, we thought it might be useful to survey the institution known as the Sunday brunch. More than any other meal, it can be adapted to fit your mood and family or guest situation.

After a late Saturday night, I packed my big black bag with as much of the Sunday *New York Times* as it would hold and requisite bits of the *Ann Arbor News* and headed with my husband to the Prickly Pear Cafe on Main Street. Prickly Pear's signature architectural feature is the row of elaborate booths lining one wall. Created by craftsman Brian Hay for Prickly Pear's ill-fated predecessor, 328 South Main, the curved cherry partitions stretch spectacularly from floor nearly to ceiling to create a private, sound-dampened universe. It's like climbing into a reading nook in the hollow trunk of a giant redwood.

We settled in and put our dibs on the respective sections of the paper while snacking on so-fresh-they-were-still-hot tortilla chips and house-made salsa our server had

immediately brought to the table. We then turned to the food in earnest. On Sundays, in addition to its regular broad and varied lunch selections, Prickly Pear has a six-choice, huevocentric brunch menu.

We started with a selection from the lunch menu, Navajo fry bread, as much out of curiosity as out of hunger. Traveling this summer in Yukon Territory, we'd sampled two local First Nations versions of fry bread—bannock, a bit like a whole-meal panfried scone, served savory with caribou sausage in Whitehorse; and, in Carcross (Caribou Crossing), sweet fry bread, which for all the world seemed to me like regular ol' sugared doughnuts (but the German tourists, who adore anything Native American, couldn't get enough: *echtes Indianeressen!*).

Prickly Pear's fry bread consists of one giant, skillet-size piece, rather like a half-risen biscuit topped with either chorizo chili or black-bean salsa (or both—we chose half and half), shredded lettuce, grated cheese, chopped tomatoes, and sour cream. The toppings were fine and fresh, but they also reminded me of what I consider a drawback of this cuisine: everything seemed to be topped with pretty much this

same array, give or take a guacamole.

The brunch entrees are voluminous enough to render an appetizer unnecessary. However, if I were desperately hungry, I'd start with soup from the lunch menu—say the vegetable-packed, herbed corn chowder garnished with lobster butter. Or perhaps the butternut squash soup, a creamy puree of

ever-so-slightly sweet squash with a smidgen of pine-nut butter and just enough of a hot-pepper finish to open the taste buds. (Either fine potage can be combined with a garlicky organic salad for \$7.95, as a delightful midday meal.)

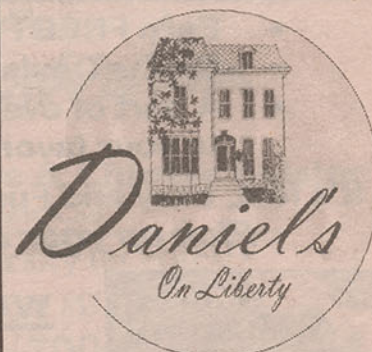
Our server brewed a new pot of decaf for me and then helped make up my mind about a main dish. "The jalapeño-biscuit eggs Benedict are the very best thing on the brunch menu," she said. And they were very good: two light, flaky biscuits topped with perfectly poached eggs and covered with a velvety hollandaise-inspired sauce whose bits of jalapeño pepper gave it just the right kick. They were served with a side of house-made black beans with a gooey melted topping of Cheddar and Jack cheeses. My husband chose the eggs rancheros—two fried eggs atop a flour tortilla and refried beans. Both dishes came with "peppered potatoes"—thick fried slices, nicely browned. When you get a decent breakfast potato like this, it's hard to understand why so many restaurants make such a mess of this simple ingredient (or turn to those wretched frozen and deep-fried patties).

If you're not in the mood for eggs, I'd



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RESTAURANTS *continued*


steer clear of the blue corn crab cakes. Served with mole, green-chili chutney, and cheese sauce, they sounded appealing, but the crab was stringy, and there was just too much going on with all those sauces. You cannot go wrong with the shrimp quesadilla, a crisp flour tortilla filled with shrimp and melted cheese and served with a first-rate guacamole.

We left our Sunday brunch well read and well fed. Indeed, the food was so satisfying and—bonus points—so filling that I didn't need to cook at all on the day of rest.

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 Limited access in narrow dining room; restrooms not accessible

If you've ever made the Chicago–Ann Arbor run on Amtrak, you've probably seen me. I am the middle-aged train nerd standing on the opposite bank of the Huron, usually with some kind of dog, waving gaily at the passing locomotive.

So it's not hard for me to like a restaurant that is housed in the old Michigan Central Railroad depot—once the finest station between Buffalo and Chicago, and now home of the Gandy Dancer. While the Gandy Dancer's brunch is more gourmand than gourmet territory, it is an easy choice for the holidays; the variety of foods and the novelty of the setting make for a fun group outing. In particular, the linebackers in your party will appreciate a buffet spread suited to the physique, appetite, and stamina of an oversize adolescent.

Scout the food on your way to being seated. There are no clear traffic patterns in the buffet room; diners mill about good-naturedly, cherry-picking their favorite bits. Most of our party started with the steam table. The Gandy Dancer has a reliable hand here, particularly with classic breakfast foods—scrambled eggs, hash brown potatoes, bacon, and sausage. The meats were beyond reproach, crispy bacon and maple sausage. The eggs were moist and light. The hash browns drew mixed reviews: the two young girls in our party particularly liked them, and I found them pleasant, but my spouse considered them insufficiently crisped.

At the next station, a chef carved a joint of beef, which turned out to be a fine, tender cut. The neighboring ham was on the rubbery side, although it had a decent smoky flavor. At the far end of the carvery table, a chef turned out our top vote-getter: fresh waffles, accompanied by a variety of syrups and fruity-nutty toppings, butter, or even whipped cream. Across the room was a made-to-order omelet bar. We tried one

with tomatoes and mushrooms; it was nicely turned out, fresh and flavorful.

My favorites were the two seafood tables. The first held trays of peel-and-eat shrimp with tomato-cocktail sauce, pickled herring in cream sauce, and steamed mussels. The second offered salmon prepared in three different ways: cold-cured *gravled lachs*; smoked Nova lox garnished with capers, onions, and chopped hard-boiled egg; and a side of salmon baked with a Cajun spice rub.

The selection at the bakery table was relatively modest—bagels, muffins, pastries, and various breads. The one sample I tried, a piece of marbled rye, was mediocre. (In general, the Gandy Dancer is Atkins country and shines brightest in the no-carb department.) The salad table offered a good mesclun with a choice of dressings, but the potatoes in the potato salad were unpleasantly crunchy (though the creamy mayonnaise-mustard dressing was quite good).

Dessert portions are blessedly tiny. To my by then oversated palate, the best sweet was a small cherry-marzipan-walnut bar on a firm buttery crust with a streusel topping; the worst was a syrupy hot apple crumble. All the other offerings were reasonably good—a wee cream puff, a mini cherry strudel, a smidgen of carrot cake with cream cheese frosting—though none was outstanding.

I was intrigued when I saw two waiters on their way to replenish the steam table, each carrying giant trays heaped with scrambled eggs. A single pan looked like a year's supply for my household. Later, I called executive chef Tye Elder, who told me that the 500 guests the Gandy Dancer serves on a typical Sunday go through 900 eggs, 120 pounds of potatoes, 115 pounds of bacon, 90 pounds of salmon, 75 pounds of shrimp, 60 pounds of hot fish, and 55 pounds of roast beef.


This is a bustling place, but the food tables are consistently appetizing, well maintained, and replenished throughout the dining period despite the constant attack by diners—a problem that leaves lesser buffets ravaged and raggedy as the day wears on. Reservations are essential, and if there are children or older people in your party, request a table on the main floor so you won't have to worry about carrying plates of food upstairs. The service is cheerful, though slightly lackadaisical (I find this is almost universally the case with buffet arrangements). Waitstaff took our plates after each buffet trip, but they didn't bring new cutlery until we asked.

I recommend that you plan a follow-on activity. We turned all that fuel into five good hours of fall cleanup work in the yard. But we still made it over to the park in time to catch a glimpse of the Twilight Limited on its way to Chicago.

The Gandy Dancer 401 Depot Street 769-0592

Sun. brunch 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

\$18.95 per adult; children 2–10 are charged \$1 times their age

 Fully accessible

Quick Bites

In August, after nine years in business, **Yamato** in Kerrytown got its liquor license. Norihiro Ishizuka, the Japanese-born owner and chef (who once had a restaurant in Tokyo's exclusive Ginza district), says that he wanted to be able to serve alcohol as a complement to the thirty kinds of appetizers he offers. Yamato's sake and beer (Kirin, Sapporo, and Asahi) are strictly Japanese, but the wines are from Stone Creek in California. While we're on the subject, Yamato also serves one of my favorite non-alcoholic drinks—an earthy barley tea.

In other Japanese restaurant news, **Champion House** on Liberty added a

sushi bar in September. I confidently headed for the Japanese side of the two-part restaurant, only to be redirected to the Chinese zone. I didn't sample anything from the long menu of hand rolls, standard *maki*, and sashimi, but the Chinese sushi chef assured me that they were very good.

For those who just can't get enough Japanese food, three-year-old **Sushi. come**, on North University, launched a \$13.95 all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch in September. On a recent Sunday, the restaurant offered nine hot dishes—including *katsu*, beef teriyaki, and *gyoza*—as well as various sushi rolls and sashimi on ice, mixed salad, and desserts.

—B.E.

Whenever I go to Amadeus, one particular feature strikes me as authentically Central European—the heavy rust-red velvet curtain that hangs in a semicircle inside the door, keeping the cold out and the warmth in. I've seen similar curtains in cafes from Bonn to Budapest, but this is the only one I've noticed in Ann Arbor.

Beyond the curtain, Amadeus soothes and delights with sight and sound. For the eye, there are wood floors, a pressed tin ceiling, long marble tables for groups, and cozy two-tops. For the ear, Amadeus has a near-perfect noise level that combines strains of symphonic background music with a low level of patter and activity; it's easy to have a conversation and at the same time enjoy the company of a roomful of people. Music inspires the eclectic assortment of tchotchkes and art that adorns the walls—hand-carved wooden figures of klezmer musicians, a piano sitting front and center in the dining room, a French horn hanging from the wall.

While Amadeus features primarily Polish food, the brunch offerings evoke broader Eastern European landscapes, with a Hungarian breakfast (a rich, flavorful goulash on potato pancakes), a Russian breakfast with eggs and caviar, and a Budapest breakfast, which includes Amadeus's luscious chicken paprikash (shredded chicken in a sour-cream-and-paprika sauce).

While our entrees were prepared, we enjoyed a basket of very fresh, soft rolls shiny with egg glaze, and little pots of hot tea. The "Bartek's breakfast" was a mound of creamy herbed scrambled eggs with chives, green onions, and paprika; smoked salmon on potato pancakes with a mustard-dill cream sauce; and a small mixed salad. The *jajecznica* (Polish breakfast) had similar elements: the herbed eggs, the potato pancakes (this time with sour cream), and slices of grilled kielbasa. It was all delicious, and filling without being overwhelming.

One note on the potato pancakes, which are part of five of the six brunch plates: while very good, they were not quite what I expected. In texture, Amadeus's potato pancakes resemble blinis more than latkes—they lack the crisp, roughly grated exterior of a latke-type cake. I was so curious about them that I called the Polish Cultural Insti-

tute in New York, where Tomasz Smolarski explained that in Poland cooks grate the potatoes very fine to get this texture. (Alas, I tried a very finely grated version at home, and still couldn't duplicate Amadeus's texture.)

Amadeus is also a patisserie, with a marvelous selection of pastries and cakes ideal for the Middle European tradition of coffee and cake late Sunday afternoon. Since the restaurant closes a little early Sundays (3 p.m.) for us to have our coffee and cake there, we occasionally get a box of goodies to enjoy at home as the day is waning. The roasted hazelnut torte has a rich, wholesome nuttiness (almost like whole wheat) that combines beautifully with its creamy milk chocolate frosting. The white chocolate macadamia bombe layers white chocolate mousse studded with nuts over sponge cake and tops that with a milk chocolate layer, more white chocolate, and, finally, a semisweet ganache. The French napoleon is layer upon paper-thin layer of pastry atop a light vanilla custard. In the apple torte, the fruit is still firm enough to retain its full flavor. These are Old World sweets at their best.

When I mentioned to friends that I'd be reviewing the Amadeus brunch, the most frequent response was "I didn't know they did brunch." To be honest, it was last on my list. But as long as we're being honest, it was the brunch I enjoyed most. I couldn't point to a single element, but somehow the personable service, the sweet ambience, and the savory, wintry dishes all made for an exceptionally pleasant experience.

—Bix Engels

Amadeus Cafe and Patisserie
122 East Washington 665-8767

Sun. brunch 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

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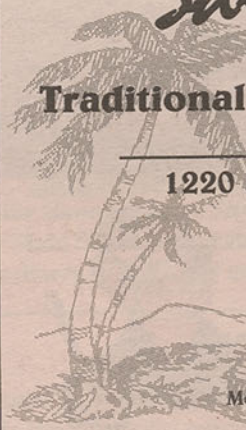
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MARKETPLACE CHANGES

The Chicago touch

Two new restaurants
pay homage

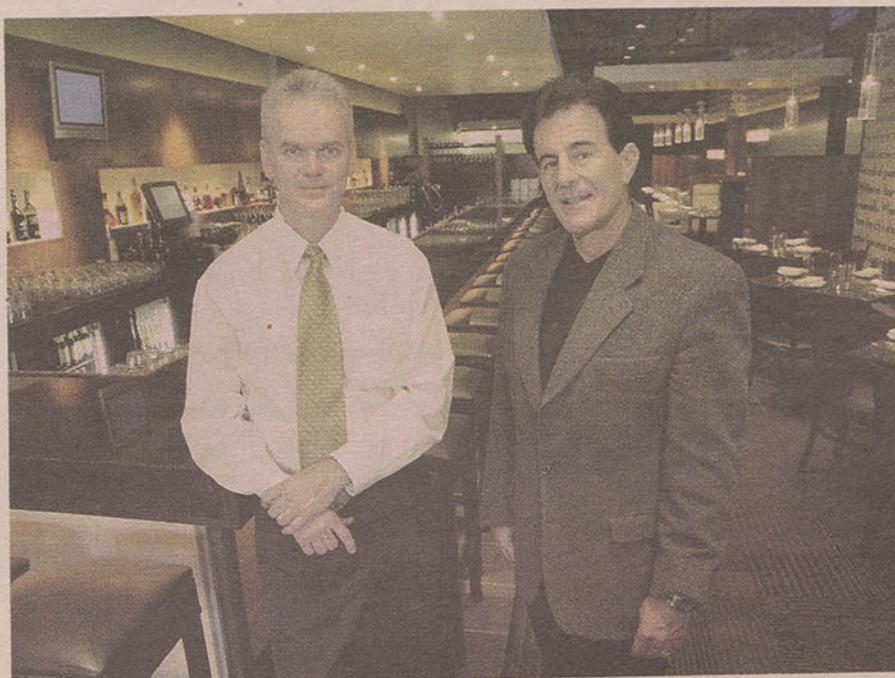
In Chicago, **Rush Street** is the heart of the dining and entertainment district. Here in Ann Arbor, it's Mike Hanna's new restaurant on Main Street—an homage to the Windy City in the heart of our own dining and entertainment district.

Hanna, who hails from Chicago and also owns Goodnite Gracie and D'Amato's, is channeling his hometown's upscale urban energy. "I wanted something wonderful, sophisticated, social—someplace where you step onto the street, it's bustling with traffic, and you feel like you're really somewhere," he says. "Ann Arbor is a pretty sophisticated place in a small-town skin."

To bring this image to life, Hanna called an old friend, designer David Peterhans, out of semiretirement. Working with detailed input from Hanna, Peterhans conjured a thirty-two-foot black granite bar, which is kept to a perfect shine by industrious bartenders; curvaceous half-moon banquettes for larger groups; and sleekly elegant wood trim that manages to look at once retro and contemporary.

The dining room—transformed beyond recognition from its days as part of the old Zydeco—occupies roughly two-thirds of the space. The rest, through an inviting doorway, is **800 North**, an urban bar the color of perpetual twilight, named for the address where Chicago's Rush Street action begins. Here, bar-height Uba Tuba granite tables, cupped stools, and a long, lush leather banquette face another gorgeous polished bar crowned with a teardrop-shaped architectural soffit that lends a cool, space-age sophistication to the space. At one end of the bar, a stage folds down from the wall to accommodate weekend live entertainment (during the rest of the week flat-panel TVs discreetly built into the bar will show DVD music videos, with the music piped throughout the space). At the other, the bar's back door leads to the Ashley Street parking lot, where aluminum-accented blue pillars frame the bar's name in gleaming stainless-steel letters. "When we were working on the place, I used to cut through Conor O'Neill's to get through to Main Street," Hanna laughs. "I figured, why not let people cut through my place instead?"

In both bar and restaurant, the most dramatic feature is the lighting. Peterhans framed the high ceiling with eight-inch soffits and used theatrical gels to cast colored light up onto the ceiling and down onto the upper walls. The result is pools of deep purple in the dining room and blue and orange in the bar, where the gels are used to equally stunning effect in wood-framed light boxes.



General manager Terry Martin and owner Mike Hanna at Rush Street. Named for the heart of Chicago's dining district, the new Main Street restaurant features "gourmet small plates" designed to encourage diners to share and graze.

The menu follows the "gourmet small plate" concept currently in vogue in Chicago and other big cities. The idea is to offer eclectic, upscale fare in smaller portions (and at lower prices), to encourage diners to share and graze. Hanna is embracing the same concept at the bar, where he offers two-ounce wine flights, some of them themed—one selection features Merlots from around the world.

Rush Street's lunch menu includes rela-

Imagine a table strewn with a \$3 mix of imported olives with shaved onion, \$5 beef tenderloin tartare, \$7 octopus with chickpeas, and a \$4 "taste" of crab croquettes with green salsa.

tively straightforward choices like smoked turkey and peppered bacon on sourdough and grilled free-range chicken in a honey glaze. But there are also more adventurous items, like a ricotta-stuffed buckwheat crepe, a pear-and-Stilton salad with watercress and a Madeira vinaigrette, and Kobe beef, available both as a \$7 burger and as \$14 short ribs with quince paste.

After lunch and during happy hour (when drinks and smaller servings called

"tastes" and "petite plates" are 50 percent off), the menu turns even more interesting. Imagine a table strewn with a \$3 mix of imported olives with shaved onion, \$5 beef tenderloin tartare, \$7 octopus with chickpeas, and a \$4 "taste" of crab croquettes with green salsa. There are soups, salads that include intriguing ingredients like pickled shallots and roasted beets, and, after 5 p.m., a dozen entrees ranging from vegetarian (tandoor-roasted onion with spiced basmati rice; the aforementioned buckwheat crepe) to fish (walleye with French lentils; spice-crusted ahi tuna) to meat (Moroccan lamb chops, beef tenderloin, duck breast in a pomegranate glaze). Nothing on the menu is over \$19.

Desserts, too, are designed to give a little shiver of pleasure without a heavy stomach or a heavy heart full of guilt: a trio of truffles, three minicheesecakes, slivers of torte, all priced at \$3-\$4. Like the rest of the menu, they encourage sharing.

It's hard to reproduce the impact of downtown Chicago's architecture in Ann Arbor, where height restrictions and historic facades limit the opportunities for grandeur. But even here, Peterhans has come through. Rush Street's exterior is a simple, gleaming white, textured by eight feet of leaves in bas-relief and splashed with a brilliant spotlight. "I wanted some of the drama, the excitement of Chicago," says Hanna. "I think we've got it."

Rush Street and 800 North, 314 South Main Street, 913-0330. Lunch Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., with tastes and petite plates only (at happy hour prices after 4 p.m.) until 5 p.m. Dinner Mon.-Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 4-10 p.m. 800 North stays open daily until 2 a.m.

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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

In Chicago, the name **Carson's** with "restaurant" after it equals "ribs"—which is one of the reasons Mainstreet Ventures picked it as the name for the new restaurant it's developing in the former Cooker spot on Plymouth Road. Like the famed Chicago Carson's chain, this one will also serve ribs, but Mainstreet's recipe is straight from its much-beloved, now-defunct Maude's. The group's Dennis Serras says he expects the contemporary American restaurant to be more of a neighborhood draw than a destination spot, with lunch entrees going for between \$7 and \$10, and dinner at \$14-\$22. If all goes well, Carson's will open near the beginning of March.



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Paula Fader-Garff and Walter Garff turned the former Dexter Bakery branch on Packard into Paula's Place.

Birth of a hangout

Dexter Bakery becomes Paula's Place

Paula Fader-Garff and her husband, Walter Garff, love ice cream, they love to cook, and they love meeting people. So when they found out that both of their temporary jobs were ending at about the same time, figuring out what to do next wasn't a big leap. In July they bought the former **Dexter Bakery** on Packard behind Blockbuster Video and turned it into a sandwich and ice cream shop they call **Paula's Place**.

Paula's Place still sells doughnuts and other baked goods from the Dexter Bakery, but it also offers a nostalgic trip back through time, when the corner sweet shop was the neighborhood hangout and there



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was something for everybody. Paula's Place attracts tradesmen for coffee and doughnuts; office workers for Paula's wonderfully complex homemade soups and sandwiches like turkey, Swiss, and herbed Boursin cheese on a croissant; kids who come by after school for penny candy—including blasts from the past like wax lips, Mary Janes, and Mallo Cups; and families for after-dinner ice cream as well as Paula's home-baked Rice Krispies treats and scotchies. There are shelves of toys to amuse the youngsters and, like as not, lively debate to entertain the elders. "On Friday and Saturday evenings, even though we have employees, we often come back just to hang out," says Paula.

Paula's serves Double Rainbow ice cream, a little-known brand in the Midwest but a gourmet mainstay in the East (the Garffs discovered it while living in New Jersey). Available in decadently high butterfat specialty flavors, it also comes as low-carb chocolate mousse and vanilla, nonfat vanilla, fat-free sorbets, and dairy-free soy cream.

The Garffs, who live in the neighborhood, have three children, two of whom are still at home and help out around the shop—Paula jokes that their kids make more money out of the business than they do. For the whole family, the little restaurant has become an integral part of their lives. "I was just asking Walt the other day what happened to our social life, because we never have time to go out," Paula says. "And he said, 'Who needs friends? We've got customers!'"

Paula's Place, 2111 Packard, 761-7000.
Mon.-Sat. 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Closed Sun.

Cafe Verde is back

*With more seats,
and no more leaks*

After two months of construction, Cafe Verde, the coffeehouse at-

tached to and run by the People's Food Co-op, reopened with a refreshed decor and 20 percent more seating. "We'd wanted to redo the whole place when we took over the lease from Gypsy Cafe in 2000, but we only had money to do the back half," explains Laura Meisler, the co-op's director of outreach and education.

The new look includes a new, smaller counter, set at an angle to accommodate more tables; new wood banquette seating, including a high-backed corner at the front

Outreach director Laura Meisler says the cafe's old floor was past saving. "Not only was it impossible to keep clean," she says, "but every time we washed it, water would drip through onto our desks below!"

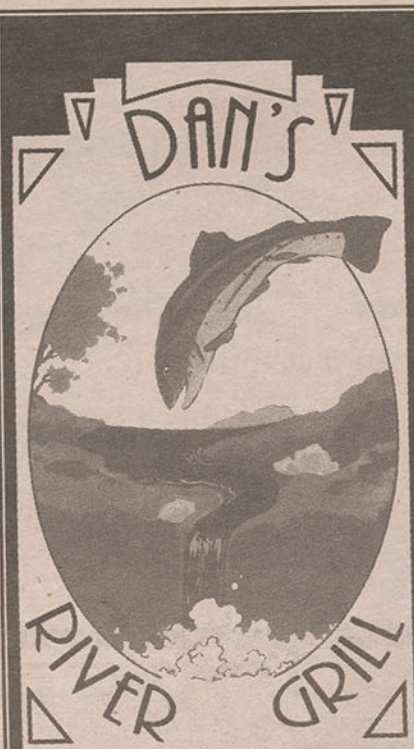
that blocks off the wind that whistles through every time the door opens; a much-needed second cash register back by the hot and cold salad and entree bar; and a beautiful new hardwood floor. Replacing the floor instead of rehabbing the old one seems eco-unfriendly for a business like the co-op, but Meisler says the old one was past saving. "Not only was it impossible to keep clean, but every time we washed it, water would drip through onto our desks below!" she says.

At the salad and entree bar, customers can make their own tossed salads or choose from several hot dishes, sold by the pound. Cafe Verde offers ready-to-eat prepackaged takeout meals, homemade cookies and other baked goods, soups, and fair-trade coffee, available in a variety of specialty drinks.

Cafe Verde, 214 North Fourth Avenue, 302-7032. Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.



When the People's Food Co-op took over the former Gypsy Cafe four years ago, it had only enough money to remodel the back half of the space. Now it's completed the renovation with new booths that provide 20 percent more seating space.



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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

A sisterly handoff at Rainbow Creations

*Including a move
from Stadium to Scio*

When Rainbow Creations came to the end of its lease this fall, owner Connie Colwell found she'd come to a crossroads. Colwell, who founded the paint-your-own-bisqueware shop in 1999 across from Michigan Stadium, wanted to return to the marketing consultation business she'd left behind for retailing. Her sister Jacque, an attorney and legal consultant, didn't want to let her.

"I've come to Michigan to run the place for Connie a couple of times," says Jacque, who's been living in Texas, "and the last time, a couple of kids came in with unpainted bisque pieces they'd gotten in their stockings for Christmas. We asked them how Santa knew to bring them those figurines, and they told us they'd asked him for them. I said to Connie, 'See, you can't close the studio! Children are asking Santa for stuff from your store, for goodness' sake!'"

"You can't close the studio!" Jacque Colwell told her sister Connie.

"Children are asking Santa for stuff from your store, for goodness' sake!"

As it turned out, Jacque felt strongly enough about Rainbow Creations' survival that she's moved back to Michigan, where she spent her undergraduate years, to run it. With Connie as her advisor, she found a new location in Scio Town Center on Zeeb Road, where she has ample free parking and no longer has to close the business on football Saturdays. But Jacque wants customers to know she's not changing her inventory or raising rates. The bisque pieces that sell the best—animal figurines for kids, dishes and mugs for grown-ups—will still be in stock, and the store will continue to host adults-only "paint till you faint" evening events when customers can bring their own food—and even alcohol—and party while they work.

Jacque says she's been amazed by the creativity of her clientele. At this time of year, customers are doing a lot of things with handprints and footprints, like making reindeer from prints of their children's feet. "One man came in and wanted to propose to his girlfriend, so he painted a plate with 'Will you marry me?' and asked the restaurant where they went to dinner to serve it to her," she says. "She was stunned



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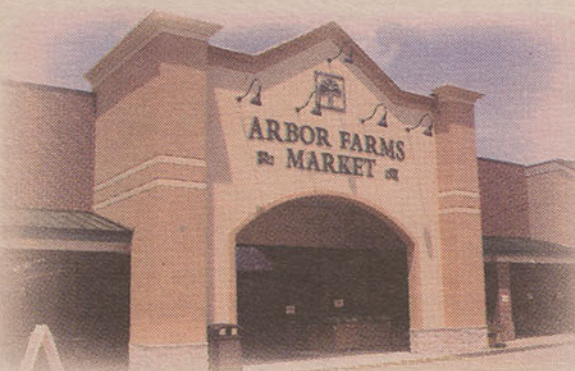
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when she got to the bottom of her plate." (She said yes.)

Jacque, who jokes that she left her legal consulting business behind in order to "engage the less adversarial side of my brain," is having at least as much fun as her customers. "This beats anything—a corporate merger, getting somebody off, negotiating a settlement," she says. "Many of my clients are a little shorter now, but they're a little less jaded—and a lot more fun!"

Rainbow Creations, 283 South Zeeb (Scio Town Center), 665-1910. Daily 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Lower Town clears the decks

Stores move across Broadway

The Lower Town Development Group has begun the first stage of its \$125 million Broadway Village at Lower Town, a 7.29-acre development project at Broadway and Maiden Lane that will encompass residential, retail, restaurant, and office space plus medical research and treatment facilities. It's moving five existing tenants who didn't want to be a part of Broadway Village across the street into the shopping strip the group has remodeled and renamed **Plymouth Park Plaza**. "We wanted to keep them together, and we wanted to move them from one site to another with the same favorable lease rate they had in the old facilities," says Scott Chappelle, president of Lower Town lead partner Strathmore Development. "We've spent over a million dollars in renovations, and the tenants are getting substantially better spaces at no price increase whatsoever."

The tenants who are moving include a corporately owned **Cottage Inn** pizza store, **Arbor Party Store**, **Foods of India**, and **Manna International Foods and Gifts**. Chappelle says his group is still negotiating with the owners of the **New Star Chinese Restaurant**.

Kay Yourist, whose **Yourist Pottery Studio** is also relocating, is the most vocal and enthusiastic of the transplanted tenants. Her new studio, built to her specifications, boasts 700 more square feet, more worktables, more sinks, better lighting, and nifty features like a glassed-in display area where customers can watch potters at work and other craft demonstrations. The next two windows will display finished work. "When this becomes a much more pedestrian area, we'll really have something for people to see," she says.

The new studio will also have new equipment—like special clay extruders that produce hollow shapes—and a retail showroom stocked with a wider inventory of clay-making tools. The art gallery side of the business is also expanding, showing work by Yourist and other ceramic artists.

Yourist, who started out on Packard before moving to Broadway, says her move to the north side has been nothing but

good fortune. "At the time, this area was the closest thing to a central location I could find that was affordable," she says. "Now, I'm moving to a beautiful studio with better visibility and more room to work and show people what we're doing. It's going to be really great."

The new Plymouth Park tenants will be joining one returning business: the **Broadway Cafe** has reopened after closing temporarily during construction.

Cottage Inn, 1141 Broadway, 995-9101. Sun.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-midnight, Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m.-1 a.m.

Arbor Party Store, 1136 Broadway, 302-1780. Hours not available at press time.

Foods of India, 1143 Broadway, 332-0500. Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-8 p.m., Mon. 5-8 p.m.

Manna International Foods and Gifts, 1149 Broadway, 663-6868. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-7 p.m.

Yourist Pottery Studio, 1133 Broadway, 662-4914. Tues. & Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wed, Thurs., & Sat. noon-6 p.m.; Sun. 4-8 p.m. Closed Mon. Classes scheduled around shop hours.

Broadway Cafe, 1139 Broadway, 769-3524. Hours not available at press time.

Briefly Noted

The new Corner House Apartments building at Washington and State streets has landed its first street-level retail tenant—**Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar**. The Minnesota-based sports bar chain has almost 300 locations across the country, including eighteen in Michigan. Buffalo Wild Wings specializes in "New York style" barbecued chicken wings in a boisterous campus-bar atmosphere that includes plenty of both small- and big-screen TVs, tuned to sporting events or displaying on-screen trivia games.

The restaurant, which the company expected to be open by the end of November, emphasizes its chicken products: wings, boneless wings, white meat "tenders," and legs, served in quantities of six to 100 and accompanied by your choice of a dozen different dipping sauces ranging from the mild (teriyaki, southwestern) to the hot (Caribbean jerk, spicy garlic) to the incendiary (Thai, hot BBQ, and something ominously entitled "blazin"). The menu also features conventional sandwiches, Tex-Mex-inspired wrap sandwiches, and "buffalitos," along with salads, burgers, and a kid's menu of the usual suspects. The full bar offers beer, wine, and specialty drinks, including flavored martinis and margaritas, and frozen screwdrivers and mai tais.

Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar, 205 South State, 997-9143. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily.

With studies by research firms like Insight Express telling us that half of Americans who've tried low-carb diets have given them up, and that only one-tenth of us are on low-carb diets now, some food trend analysts think the low-carb craze is

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The Zingerman's Times

Vol. 7 no. 12

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December 2004

Printed in Ann Arbor

Land of a thousand flavors

Zing news nibbles

Zingerman's Oil Makes Fine Foodie Gift

After searching far and wide, the olive oil tasters at Zingerman's have finally found an oil to call their own. This oil is produced by Marina Colonna at her estate in the Molise Region of Italy. It's the only oil available in the United States made exclusively from the Peranzana olive varietal. Foodies from far and wide are flocking the Deli for tastes and ordering up by calling Zingerman's Mail Order at 888.636.8162.

Buy Local...Locally Made Panettone!

The Bakehouse is making Panettone, and it's said to be fresher and more flavorful than those usually found around the holidays, which can have more miles on them than a frequent flyer card. Bakers are using a natural starter and superb dried fruit from Italy. Stop by the Bakehouse or Deli and ask for a taste.

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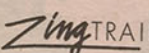
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witness the winter wonder zingerman's gifts can bring

Braced for yet another unforgiving and cold winter, Ann Arborites are said to be seeking solace in their Zingerman's Mail Order catalogs, spreading love to foodies from coast to coast.

"I just sent the Ann Arbor Artisan Cheese box to my relatives in Vermont, who pride themselves on the local cheese, and they were beside themselves with how good Zingerman's Creamery cheese was. They've been turning all of their foodie friends on, too," attested one local food fan.

"I do all of my holiday shopping through Zingerman's Mail Order," added another loyal follower. "I can honestly say that if anybody in my family doesn't receive their loaves of Cranberry Pecan Bread and Farm Bread, as well as their Sourcream Coffeecakes, I lose status in my family."

Word on the streets is that you can call 888.636.8162 to talk to a live gift consultant, or visit www.zingermans.com.



Zingerman's Mail Order is open late! Holiday hours are 8am-midnight ET 7 days a week from December 1-23.

cheese from the nether, netherlands

Food insiders haven't stopped whispering about Remeker cheese since its Ann Arbor debut last month. Forager Ari Weinzwieg discovered the cheese on a trip to the Netherlands last summer. Buzz is that Remeker's the best new European cheese he has found in ages. Cheesemaker Jan Dirk Van de Voort was reluctant to place his cheese abroad initially, but after researching Zingerman's values and commitment to great cheese, it's said he conceded.

Intrigued by Remeker's wide and wild appeal, investigators have uncovered that it's one of very few Dutch cheeses made from the exceptionally rich milk of Jersey cows. Cheesemaker Jan was also sighted taking lavishly fine care of his precious Jerseys. Randolph Hodgson, owner of Neal's Yard Dairy in London, is also on to Remeker, and reports that it's "the finest Dutch cheese I've ever tasted. The length of the flavour is incredible. It's rich, creamy, and nutty with hints of caramel and butterscotch." Remeker's made a fast reputation for itself as a deliciously complex cheese without match. Stop by the Deli and have a taste yourself or visit www.zingermans.com to have it shipped to you and your loved ones.

candy bar madness grips generation x



Zingerman's locally made candy bars: Could this be the future?

While writer Steve Almond unapologetically documents his candy obsession in *Candy Freak*, Zingerman's Candy Man Charlie Frank has been performing alchemy, changing base candy bars like Baby Ruth into nothing short of miraculous, rumors say. Author Almond says, "What would be really great is for candy to go the way beer has, with all those microbrews that came in. Local candy bars could make a big resurgence!"

Zingerman's first creation, the Zzang! bar, is a divine concoction of home-made honey nougat, roasted peanuts, muscovado caramel and sea salt draped in a lush robe of dark Ecuadorian chocolate. Inside sources report that another flavorfully intriguing bar is under secret production. These treats have been spotted at Zingerman's Bakehouse, Deli, and at the Roadhouse. Stay tuned for more on the local candy bar front!

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on the wane. Not as far as he's concerned, says Mike Spadafore, who's celebrating the first anniversary of his **LoCarb Center** by moving from South State to North Main. "A few months after we opened, low-carb staples started hitting supermarkets, and the small stores that opened up after that didn't do well," he says. "But our customers have been loyal. Our business is definitely growing."

Mike and his brothers, Joe and Nick, opened the LoCarb Center last November, smack dab in the middle of low-carb fever. The store carries everything from breakfast cereals and breads to frozen pizza, cookies, and margarita mix, all designed to minimize carbohydrate content. "There's so much out there, we can afford to be pretty picky," Mike says. "Manufacturers send us samples, and we'll try them, then put them out for customers to sample. If people like them, we'll stock them."

The store's original location wasn't as visible as the brothers had hoped—people were having trouble finding the store, even when they were armed with the address. The new spot, at the busy intersection of Main and Depot, offers an abundance of drive-by traffic as well as a stoplight that makes it easy for customers to get into and out of the parking lot.

The LoCarb Center, 907 North Main, 623-6433. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

Testing a possible makeover of its mall-based **Waldenbooks** chain, Borders Group Inc. has remodeled the Briarwood Waldenbooks—and thirty-four others—and renamed them **Borders Express**. The parent company "is taking a look at whether re-branding mall stores, refreshing their look, and expanding what they carry will have a positive impact on sales," explains Borders spokeswoman Anne Roman.

It's difficult to imagine that the new Borders Express stores—revamped to look like miniature versions of the chain's free-standing stores, with a new inventory that includes CDs, DVDs, and gift items—won't outperform Waldenbooks, once the country's premier mall bookseller but in recent years a mere struggling subsidiary. Borders and Waldenbooks came together when both were owned by Kmart in the early 1990s. In 1995 the Borders Group—including Waldenbooks—was spun off as an independent company.

Since then, there's been a sharp contrast between Borders—contemporary, proactive, and on the grow—and the Waldenbooks division, which industry analysts agree has become somewhat stale. "Waldenbooks has been in existence for well over sixty years, and is well known as the leading mall name in bookselling," Roman says. "But people look at the store as a place to shop quickly for a best-seller while they're in the mall for other things, and there's no real depth of inventory. It's probably not a destination stop."

Borders, on the other hand, is almost always a destination stop for its cus-

tomers—and quite a long stop at that: Roman says the average customer stays almost an hour. By experimenting with the Borders name in mall locations, Roman says, "we're hoping we'll attract some new folks—or maybe some Waldenbooks folks that are interested in the new name."

The name change does seem to have lent the mall-based bookshops a certain cachet. One customer at the Novi Town Center Borders Express told the *Detroit Free Press* that "the staff knows more about books" than when it was Waldenbooks—even though, according to Roman, the staff is virtually unchanged.

Also at Briarwood, **Kay Jewelers** has expanded into the vacant shoe store next door. And over in what the mall has dubbed "Cafe West" (the wing with Jonathon B. Pub, Sbarro, Olga's, and Cinnabon), cellular store **CDS Communications** is being turned into a Wireless Toyz franchise by owner Ali Koumaiha (see story below).

Once a single store in Ypsilanti, **Wireless Toyz**, now based in Farmington Hills, has grown to dozens of locations in sixteen states. Its self-stated goal: to become the Blockbuster Video of the wireless industry.

When Joe Barbat founded Wireless Toyz in 1995, it sold almost exclusively wireless pagers and service contracts. Two years later, when cell phone prices had dropped enough that consumers were buying them in big numbers, the store changed its focus to cellular products and services and began franchising. It now has nonexclusive deals with service providers Nextel, Sprint, AT&T, T-Mobile, Dish Network, and DirecTV.

One of the earliest franchisees was John Jabero, whose Wireless Toyz at Fourth Avenue and Washington downtown has been in business for seven years. This winter he's taking over the former Rainbow Creations spot across from Michigan Stadium (see above) to open his second Ann Arbor store. "We're spending a lot of money on the building, and it's going to be completely rehabbed," he says. "It's a great location."

Now that other stores are also offering multiple service providers and phone brands, Jabero says, customers are more confused than ever. "If we're going to stay in the game, our main concern has to be customer service," he says. "All our employees and those who run the stores have a percentage of the business, so that they have a vested interest in customer satisfaction. We all spend a lot of time answering questions and making sure our customers are comfortable."

Ann Arbor's two new stores are a drop in what the company hopes will be a very big bucket: Wireless Toyz projects 250 stores by 2007.

Wireless Toyz, 1336 South Main, no phone available at press time. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

In November, Murali Jayaraman and his brother-in-law, Prabu Pandian, turned the former Sabor Latino Taqueria on South

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State Street into **Curry Bites**, an affordable lunch and dinner spot with a southern Indian flair that specializes in what the signboard calls "innovative delights." A few weeks after opening, the menu was still evolving but included curried eggplant, spinach, chicken, or turkey sandwiches on chutney-spiked bread; flat-bread wraps stuffed with vegetables, tofu, or meat or fish curry; and—most intriguing—pizza with Indian toppings like tandoori chicken and Paneer tikka. Free with any conventional sandwich or wrap: pop or a mango lassi yogurt drink.

Curry Bites, 209-211 South State, 929-9345. Probable hours: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-2 a.m.

In October and November, construction crews were speedily erecting a new **KFC** on Stadium Boulevard on the site vacated by Italian fast food chain Fazoli's. The chicken chain, based in Louisville, Kentucky, will close its aging location on Jackson Avenue and move into the new digs once construction is completed. The move comes as KF Corporation is fighting to stay competitive by adding nonfried food items, including salads, sandwiches, and rice bowls made with oven-roasted chicken, prominently featured in the center of the chain's new menu boards.

KFC, 2245 West Stadium Boulevard, phone and hours not available at press time.

FuncoLand in the Cranbrook Village shopping center has changed its name to **GameStop**, but its ownership and inventory remain unchanged. Barnes & Noble bought what was then called Babbage's in 1999, renamed it GameStop, and spun it off in 2002, retaining 63 percent interest. The company has since been consolidating its retail brands (including Babbage's, Software Etc., and FuncoLand) under the GameStop name. The strategy appears to be working: GameStop is currently the nation's largest video game and entertainment software specialty retailer, with 1,676 retail stores in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Ireland.

GameStop, 878 West Eisenhower Parkway (Cranbrook Village), 668-1400. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call for extended holiday hours beginning Dec. 5.

Discount Tire has opened a new location on Carpenter Road, across from Target and Joanne Etc. Although the new spot is less than two miles from an older location on Washtenaw just west of Arborland, an employee says there are no plans to shut the Washtenaw store.

Discount Tire, 3780 Carpenter Road, 477-0082. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sun.



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In the Works

After the holidays, look for alternative bookstore **Common Language** to move from its current location downtown to Braun Court, where owners Keith Orr and Martin Contreras operate the 'aut\ Bar. The partners bought the gay- and lesbian-oriented bookstore earlier this year.

Coming to Market Place, next to the Farmers' Market: **Être Design Jewelry**, in the former Mathilde's clothing boutique. Construction was under way in mid-November.

Due in early 2005: Ann Arbor's second **Qdoba**, the fast-casual eatery that serves up Tex-Mex assembly-line style. The restaurant will occupy the freestanding building currently under construction at the Huron Village shopping center at Huron Parkway and Washtenaw.

Closings

The **Original '60s Pizza & Sub Shop** shut its doors a decade after it opened in Village Centre. The Detter family, who hailed from Philadelphia and prided themselves on their Philly cheesesteak sandwiches, had expressed hope that their shop would be rejuvenated by a symbiotic relationship with a new coffeehouse and ice cream parlor, but the resulting increased foot traffic in the area still wasn't enough to keep the business going.

Also closed: the local **House of Blinds and Draperies**, at the Cranbrook Village shopping center, and plus-size women's clothier **Lane Bryant** in Briarwood mall.

—Laura McReynolds

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Observer's Changes column had a host of new businesses to report—eighteen in all. Four are still with us: **Steve & Barry's University Sportswear** and **Bargain Books**, both on State; the **Mancino's Pizza & Grinders** store out Jackson Road, now called Mancino's West Side; and the **HoneyBaked Ham** outlet on Washtenaw. Two other businesses, officially closed, were succeeded by similar enterprises and so count as survivors under our rules: **Cooker Restaurant** on Commonwealth Boulevard, where Carson's is opening (see "The Chicago touch," above); and **Tater's** eatery inside Bel-Mark Lanes, whose place was taken by the All Star Grille. The nonsurvivors: **Maternité by Mothers Work**, **Bain's Deli**, **Bentley's Luggage & Gifts**, and a **Bostonian** shore store, all at Briarwood; two gift stores in the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road, **Angel Treasures** and **Magic Memories**; **Golf AnyTime** simulated-golf shop on Carpenter Road; another golf-related business, **Mike Robson's Pro Shop**, which operated inside the Arbor Dome; the Ann Arbor location of **Midwest Piano Distributors**, on Varsity Drive; **Basim's State Street Deli and Sundry Shop**, in the 777 Eisenhower Parkway building; sandwich shop **J's Place**

on Carpenter Road; and **Lindsay's** restaurant inside the Bird of Paradise jazz club.

December 1994 survival rate: 33 percent

Five years ago this month, we told about nine retail and restaurant openings. The **Starbucks** at State and Liberty is still going, and Ann Arbor's **Harry and David**, at Briarwood, is still selling fine foods suitable for gifts. Giuseppe Craparotta's **Ann Arbor Marble and Ceramic Tile** on South Industrial is still around under the name **Pino Custom Marble & Ceramic Tile**. But gone is the similarly named business **Ann Arbor Tile & Marble Center**, on Dino Drive. Gone, also, are dance music store **SKR Dubplate Pressure**, on East Liberty; Mexican restaurant the **Burro** on Plymouth Road; and **Luminosity** in Nickels Arcade, a gallery that also sold tea. **Papa Chulo's**, a Mexican restaurant in Maude's former space on South Fourth Avenue, has been succeeded by **Studio 4** dance club—and counts as a survivor under our rules. Another technical survivor is **Maple Miller Meats**; its space is now occupied by the **Mercado Sabor Latino**.

December 1999 survival rate: 55 percent

One year ago this month, fourteen new businesses appeared in Marketplace Changes; all but two lived to see their first anniversaries. A flock of those are on Carpenter Road: Carol and Maniraj Gandham's South Asian grocery and import shop **Nilgiris Import Goods**, Anu and Sashi Kumar's **Desi Grocery**, Gabriella Rusu's **Bennie's Broasted Chicken**, and Danthy Nguyen and Xianyou Ren's **King Shing Chinese Food**. Also still open: Nick Easton's **Circus Bar and Billiards** above the Millennium Club on First; soup-centered restaurant **Zoup!** on Plymouth Road; Mark Garmo and friends' **Bello Vino Fine Foods** in the former Merchant of Vino space, also on Plymouth Road; **Lotus Thai Restaurant** in Oak Valley Centre; Shannon Shahan's car audio store **Toys with Noise**, successor to Custom Sound, on West Stadium Boulevard; pharmacist Xavier Tato's revival of the **Stadium Pharmacy**, also on West Stadium Boulevard; and **Ann Arbor Agri-Center**, Ed Reaume's revival of Braun Agriservice on Whitmore Lake Road. Sisters Tara McKinney and Renee Miller, who started **Ceragem Ann Arbor** on Washtenaw a year ago, are carrying a new brand of therapeutic bed and have accordingly renamed their store **Migun**. Closed are **StarBean Coffee**, on Carpenter, and the second **Fleetwood Diner**, on West Michigan (the revered original Fleetwood on Ashley is still open).

December 2003 survival rate: 86 percent

—Paul R. Schwankl

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send e-mail to lauramcreynolds@tds.net or leave voice mail at 769-3175, extension 364.



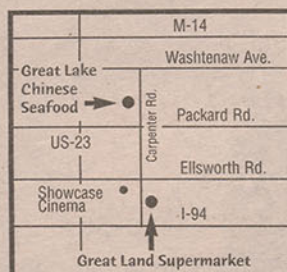
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DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at arborweb: www.arborweb.com. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ Denotes no admission charge.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 WEDNESDAY

★"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers/Busch's Valu Land. December 1-5. Live broadcasts by Kool 107 DJs. Hot dogs available. Nonperishable food donations—dropped off at any Washtenaw County Busch's—requested for Food Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 1-3), 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Dec. 4), & 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Dec. 5). Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free admission; donations of canned goods or cash encouraged. 761-2796.

★2-Year-Old Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Tuesday & Wednesday (different branch locations) through December 8. Stories, rhymes, and songs for kids ages 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). 9:30-10 a.m., AADL main library story room (Dec. 1 & 8), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William, & Northeast Branch (Dec. 7), Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200 (Northeast), 327-8301 (main).

★"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. December 1 & 8. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. 10-11 a.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200.

★Wednesday Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Wednesday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. 11 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 & 663-4498 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★Northeast Seniors Band: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Every Wednesday. All seniors invited to bring their instruments and sit in with the band. Noon-2 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

★"To Criticize Is Easy: Morality, Ideology, and Problems of Slovak Critical Thinking": U-M Center for Russian and East European Studies Brown Bag Lecture. Talk by U-M anthropology grad student Jonathan Larson. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.



Anne Sofie von Otter, Dec. 11



Jim Dailakis, Dec. 2-4

GALLERIES

104 EXHIBIT OPENINGS

Laura Bien

104 GALLERY REVIEW

Art of the Lega

Laura Bien

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

107 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE

John Hinchey

107 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW

Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings

Sandor Slomovits

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75 MATTHEW THORBURN

A sense of beauty

Keith Taylor

83 BILL CHARLAP

A different path

Piotr Michalowski

87 NOMO

Afrobeat meets avant-garde

James M. Manheim

93 VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE

A cappella angels sing the music of the spheres

James Leonard

99 JEN CASS

Midwestern twang

Alan Goldsmith

101 SHE LOVES ME

The lighter side of 1930s Europe

Sally Mitani

128 EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Jane Siberry, Dec. 9



The Santaland Diaries, Dec. 2-5 & 9-12

★"Art Videos": U-M Museum of Art. Every Wednesday. In conjunction with 2 current exhibits on the Bauhaus and Korean pottery. Today: *Bauhaus in America: Part I* (today) and *Part II* (December 8) examine the effect of the Bauhaus school on American design. Also this month: *Families of Korea* presents Korean social life (December 15). *South Korea, Land of Morning Calm* explores Korea's balance between past and present (December 22), and *Hidden Korea* highlights traditional food, festivals, agriculture, and religion (December 29). 12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday & Wednesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 12:45-3:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 9:30-11:30 a.m. (Tues.). Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. 25¢ contribution for prizes. 769-5911.

★Chess and Euchre: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Every Wednesday. All seniors invited to play chess or euchre. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

★Afternoon Group Entertainment: Ann Arbor Parks Department. Every Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday. All adults invited to play dominoes, chess, checkers, cards, board games, and more. 1:30-3 p.m. (Mon. & Wed.) & 1-2 p.m. (Sat.). Northside Community Center (809 Taylor), & Bryant Community Center (3 W. Eden Ct. off Champagne from Stone School Rd., just north of Ellsworth). Free. 994-2985, 994-2722.

★Concert Band and Wind Ensemble: Greenhills School. Neil Donato leads these 2 student ensembles in programs of classical and modern music. Followed by a reception. 3 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

★"Magnetic North": A Poetry Reading: U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. U-M English professor Linda Gregerson reads from her 4th book of poems, a collection of works exploring events from the history of science. Reception follows. 4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998-6251.

★Runner's Clinic: Michigan Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center. Every Wednesday. Runners of all ability levels invited to chat with and quiz orthopedic surgeon John Anderson, physical therapist Pete Kitto, podiatrist Brad Seel, Tortoise & Hare reps Matt and Monica Holappa, and a rep from Great Lakes Orthotics. Bring running shoes, shorts, and questions about any aspect of running. 5 p.m., MSMOC, Arbor Park Office Center, 4972B W. Clark Rd. (southwest side of the Clark & Golfside intersection), Ypsilanti. Free. 434-3020.

★Mark Doty: 16th Annual Day Without Art (U-M Museum of Art). Poetry reading by this award-winning Massachusetts- and Texas-based poet whose lyrical, quietly sparkling meditative poems examine such everyday things as weightlifting, an empty crab shell, and a beautiful semisurreal New York street scene. Also, in recognition of World AIDS day, the museum drapes a number of works in black mourning cloth to acknowledge the wealth of creativity lost because of the severe impact of AIDS on the international arts community. 5 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0395.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. Joshua Major directs U-M music students in two programs of opera music. "Betrayal, Abuse, and Treachery" (5 p.m.) features excerpts from operas by Britten, Puccini, Bellini, Handel, and Jack Beeson. "Tragic Women, Tragic Love!" (7:30 p.m.) includes music for such tragic women characters as Violetta, Cleopatra, Ophelia, Juliette, and other tragic heroines from operas by Verdi, Mozart, Gounod, and Handel. 5 & 7 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

★Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., 102 Krieger Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: \$24 semiannually. 995-7351.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday. Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline, at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530.



DECEMBER EVENTS @ Ann Arbor District Library



Friday Dec. 3
7:00 - 7:30 pm

Bilingual Storytime in Chinese and English
Malletts Creek Branch



Saturday Dec. 4
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friends of the Library Holiday Book Shop Sale
Downtown Library Friends of the Library Book Shop

Saturday Dec. 4
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Lecture: The Life & Music of B.B. King hosted by WEMU music expert **Michael Jewett** — Malletts Creek Branch

Saturday Dec. 11
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Concert: Hand Bell Music by Classical Bells
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Sunday Dec. 12
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Sunday Edition: Historian **Richard Bak** discusses his book *A Distant Thunder: Michigan in the Civil War*
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room



Sunday Dec. 12
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Cover to Cover Book Discussion: *The First Desire* by **Nancy Reisman** with a special appearance by the author
West Branch — Registration required, call 327-4200

Thursday Dec. 16
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Concert and Film: Blue Dahlia presents an original film score to the silent classic *It*, starring **Clara Bow**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Friday Dec. 17
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Mario Kart Master's Tournament for All Adults Age 18 & Up
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
Related Events:
Rookie Tournament Ages 6-12 Sunday, Dec. 19, 2:00 - 4:00
Mario Kart Open Play Grades 6-12 Monday, Dec. 27 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room



Saturday Dec. 18
noon - 4:00 pm

Mario Kart Grand Championship Tournament Grades 6 -12
Previous winners compete, with an additional wild card tournament for newcomers at noon
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room



Monday Dec. 20
2:00 - 3:30 pm

It's A Wrap: Holiday Gift Wrapping Grade 4 & up
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Monday Dec. 20
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Fantastic Creations with Hexabits Age 6 & up
Malletts Creek Branch

Repeated: Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2:00 - 3:00 pm — West Branch

Wednesday Dec. 22
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Make It & Take It Art Project for families with young children — Northeast Branch

Repeated: Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2:00 - 4:00 pm — Malletts Creek Branch



Thursday Dec. 23
2:00 - 2:30 pm

Silly Stories for All Ages with **Laura Pershin Raynor**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday Dec. 28
2:00 - 2:45 pm

Pippin Puppets Age 3 & up
Northeast Branch

Repeated: Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2:00 - 2:45 pm — West Branch

Repeated: Thursday, Dec. 30, 2:00 - 2:45 pm — Malletts Creek Branch



Thursday Dec. 30
10:00 - 10:30 am

Out With the Old, In With the New: Stories for All Ages with **Laura Pershin Raynor**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

1 WEDNESDAY EVENTS continued

★**"Mindful Meditation": InternalGym.** Every Wednesday & Saturday. Local meditation instructor Ike Odum leads a meditation session to relieve stress. 7 p.m. (Wed.) & 10 a.m. (Sat.). InternalGym, 4 Trowbridge Ct. (north off Partridge Path east off Stone School Rd.). Free. 975-9993.

★**Transcendental Meditation Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic School.** Every Wednesday. Ann Arbor TM director Carol Lubetkin introduces this simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 996-8686.

★**Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. 7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481-1044.

★**"State, Islam, Gender: Middle Eastern Perspectives": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by University of Texas sociology professor Mounira Charrad. 7 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0350.

★**"Everyday Strategies for Getting Real about Weight Loss": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series.** Local chef Brian Steinberg discusses the weight loss strategies that enabled him to lose 100 pounds and keep it off. 7-8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

★**"A Buddhist Approach to Anger": Vajrayana Buddhist Center.** Talk by area Buddhist monk Kelsang Khedrub. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Suggested donation \$10. (248) 444-4633.

★**"Sufi Meditation and the Healing Power of Cosmic Energy": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** The renowned mainstream Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbabi, a Sufi shaykh from the Middle East who moved to the U.S. in 1991 to spread Sufi teachings here, reads from his new book. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central Depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

★**Meditation: Karma Thesum Choling.** Every Wednesday. All invited to join an hour of meditation in the Karma Kargyu tradition. Instruction for beginning meditators available at 7 p.m. by appointment. 7:30-8:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495, 678-7549.

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** Every Wednesday. Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665-3522.

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Every Wednesday & Thursday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 5-8 (Wednesday) & 2-5 (Thursday). 7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Thurs.). Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Every Wednesday. All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *The Secret Stream*. 8-9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485-3764.

★**Flute Choir: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct this music-student ensemble in a program TBA. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**Bright Sheng and the St. Petersburg String Quartet: U-M School of Music.** Internationally renowned composer Sheng, a U-M composition professor, joins the St. Petersburg Quartet, which is in residency at U-M, to perform 2 of his works, String Quartet no. 4 and *Four Movements for Piano Trio*. Also, Shostakovich's String Quartet no. 3. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

★**"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company.** Every Wednesday-Sunday, October 7-December 18. The Purple Rose kicks off its fall season with Charles Ludlam's campy, fast-paced gothic spoof that blends elements of Agatha Christie, *Wuthering Heights*, and *The Mummy's Curse*. Two actors play 8 roles that involve increasingly tattered costume changes. When the chirpy Lady Enid marries mysterious Egyptologist Lord Edgar, she finds

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poetry

Matthew Thorburn

A sense of beauty

Okay, I'll admit it right up front. A decade or more ago, Matthew Thorburn was a student in a U-M poetry workshop I was teaching. I'd like to say he was "my student," but that wouldn't be quite right. Matt Thorburn was one of those students who needed only one thing from his teachers: just let him go and don't get in his way! I've seen some of his poems in journals over the years and have followed him as he moved to New York, got degrees, started a literary journal (*Good Foot*, one of the interesting places for young writers to publish these days), and started winning prizes. And now comes *Subject to Change*, his first collection of poems.

It is a lush, extravagant book, one that resists any easy categories. It is filled with the energy of urgent composition (this poet really believes he should engage the themes of the ages), with genuine humor, and with formal confidence. Thorburn nods to Marcel Duchamp and Gertrude Stein (he walks through Chinatown with Stein, "camouflaged / in silver wig and blue sunglasses"), but he is just as likely to write sestinas or sonnets that play around with rhymes in ways that are both a bit silly and very smart at the same time. Just listen to the beginning of "At the Angle Tree with Katrina," a poem about a night out in London that mixes the absolutely contemporary in an old rhythmic stew:

An Anglo bistro. Sweat-soaked. Six-ish.
"Absolut?" Amstel Light. Midtown and
then some,
and me just back from Michigan's sore
thumb.
One of the city-slick? I wish. No, nix
wish—

It comes almost as a shock, albeit a pleasant one, to realize somewhere near the end of the poem that this is a sonnet and that the rhymes are almost completely regular.

But the architecture of the poems in *Subject to Change* is simply the space that encloses a writer completely engaged with some old romantic notions. Even though he knows a lot and can fill his poems with witty allusions to art and music and literature, what motivates this enormously talented young poet is a sense of the beautiful and a belief in its efficacy. It is fascinating to see someone



who has obviously moved through many of the intellectual and creative trends of the new millennium arrive back at a place that seems almost nineteenth century.

In "Coda: Where the River Runs," the poem that ends this collection, Thorburn lists things that seize and grip his heart—"the light in light-brown eyes," "the cello's wavery rubato," "the lovers falling / into one another." And he keeps his list running almost to the end:

Where the river
runs, over the rocks. Where the black tern
hovers over the inland marshes
the light grinds down

to a dusky glow—quiet, quiet,
even if my heart
wallops in my chest
like a fish in a bucket,
and there's nothing
I can say to make it stop.

It is to relearn the importance of those moments that a teacher comes back to sit at the student's feet.

Matthew Thorburn reads from *Subject to Change* at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Tuesday, December 7.

—Keith Taylor

that life in his mansion on the foggy moors has its drawbacks. The giant portrait of his dead wife seems possessed, something's fishy about her death, and when Lord Edgar jaunts off to Egypt, the grouchy housemaid mourns for her former mistress and won't mind Lady Enid. Stars John Lepard and John Seibert. 8 p.m., *Garage Theater*, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$22.50 (Wed., Thurs., & Sun. eves.), \$27.50 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), \$32.50 (Fri. & Sat. eves.). 433-ROSE.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Wednesday and December 23 & 30. Performances by aspiring stand-up comics and established area pros coming out to work on new material. The show concludes with a performance by the improv troupe *Beer Money*. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

Swing Dancing: Michigan Union Arts & Programs. December 1 & 8. Swing dancing to recorded music. Preceded by beginning (7:30 p.m.) and intermediate (8:30 p.m.) dance lessons. No partner required. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. 9:30 p.m.-midnight, Michigan Union ballroom. \$4 (student \$3) at the door. 763-3202.

"Jesus Cake, Fat-Pants, and the Theory of Relativity": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater. December 1-4. Callie McKee and Aral Bail Gribble

II perform their 2-character play, a montage of monologues, music, and mayhem, set on the day before Thanksgiving, about families, the holidays, and the mystery of how we turn out the way we do. The debut production of the Performance Network's new late-night "guerrilla theater" series of experimental and innovative plays. 11 p.m., *Performance Network*, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$10 in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. \$8 student rush tickets available the day of the show. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

FILMS

Hillel. "Mitzvah Savta" (Dror Shaul, 1999). When 3 boys try to collect enough money to bury their grandmother, comic mishaps force them to change their mission into something like a military operation. Popcorn and drinks available. FREE. 769-0500. Hillel Irwin Green auditorium, 1429 Hill. 8 p.m. Michigan Theater Foundation. "Enduring Love" (Roger Michell, 2004). December 1 & 2. A hot-air balloon tragedy horrifies a picnicking couple and marks a turning point in their lives. Based on the Ian McEwan novel. Daniel Craig, Rhys Ifans, Samantha Morton. \$8.50 (children, students, veterans, & seniors, \$5.50). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

2 THURSDAY

58th Annual Greens Market: Ann Arbor Branch

of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association. Sale of wreaths, ropes, rings, bundles, bunches, boughs, swags, sprays, twigs, garlands, festoons, cascades, and other festive, traditional, and contemporary permutations of holiday greens. Also, handmade gifts and crafts, a white elephant sale, and a sale of the cookbook *Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Cooks*. Raffle: All proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 769-1231.

"West Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. December 2 & 9. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. 10-11 a.m., AADL West Branch story room, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 327-4200.

★Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. Every Thursday. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Fitness Fun," a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m. (December 9, 16, & 30) or 1 p.m. (December 2 & 23), an educational or cultural presentation. Today: the Detroit-area choral group *Bel Canto* presents a program of Yiddish, Hanukkah, and Broadway songs. Also this month: an *Intergenerational Hanukkah Celebration* (December 9), EMU history professor emerita Daryl Hafter discusses her study trip to "The Weaving Villages in the Peruvian Highlands" (December 16), a screening of a film from the *Gelman Jewish Heritage Video Collection* (December 23), and, in anticipation of the New Year, a group discussion of "Strategies for Successful Transitions" (December 30). Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for non-seniors). The program concludes with the *Current Events* discussion group (1-2 p.m.) and a meeting of the *Senior Literary Group* (2:15-3:15 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschawsky. All invited. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Thursday except December 25. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. Noon-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$3 (nonresidents, \$4). 769-5911.

★"Three Logics of Welfare Politics in Japan": U-M Center for Japanese Studies. Talk by Harvard University Japanese studies professor Margarita Estevez-Abe. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

★"You Just Do What It Takes to Help: Cross-Class Relationships and Volunteer Activism to End Community Poverty": U-M Center for the Education of Women. Talk by CEW visiting scholar Leslie Bloom. Noon-1:30 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty St. Free. 998-7080.

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. Every Thursday. Performances by area and guest artists. Today: a sneak preview of the Youth Dance Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* (see 10 Friday listing). Also this month: a classical sampler by the *Borodin Society* (December 9), seasonal music by the *Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra* (December 16), and seasonal harmonies by the chorus *Counterpoint* (December 23). 12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★"Energy and the Environment": U-M Residential College. December 2 & 9. A pair of public talks hosted by this RC science class. Today: United Solar Ovic Corporation (Auburn Hills) research scientist Greg Demaggio discusses "Large-Scale Solar Panel Research, Development, and Production." Also this month: U-M School of Natural Resources dean Rosina Bierbaum, a former chief environmental science advisor to President Clinton, discusses "The Scientific Consensus on Global Warming" (December 9). 1 p.m., 126 East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-9960.

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Every Thursday. A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. 2-7 p.m., CTN studio, LL114 Edison Center, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues.-Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769-7422.

★"Satchmo Blows Up the World": Shaman Drum Bookshop. U-M history and African American studies professor Penny von Eschen is on hand to sign copies of her new book about the jazz tours spon-

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2 THURSDAY EVENTS continued

sored by the U.S. government during the Cold War. 4 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

***Lourdes Portillo: U-M School of Art Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by this award-winning Mexico-born filmmaker whose films, TV documentaries, and film collages examine issues of Latino identity. Portillo's current projects include 2 narrative films, the story of a teenage Chicana in the 50s and a stylized lesbian detective story. 5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 764-0397.

***"Reframing Infectious Disease": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** December 2-4. Scholars from around the world gather for a series of talks and discussions exploring the relevance of the humanities to epidemiology, disease models, and the global AIDS epidemic. The conference opens tonight with **"When Germs Travel: Epidemics and Anxiety in Modern America,"** an opening address by U-M communicable diseases professor Howard Markel, author of the best-selling *When Germs Travel: Six Major Epidemics That Have Invaded America since 1900 and the Fears They Have Unleashed*. It concludes on December 4 at 4 p.m. with a keynote address on **"Emerging Disease in a World out of Balance"** by Laurie Garrett, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*. Also, on December 3, sessions on **"AIDS: Whose Epidemic Is It?"** (8:30-10 a.m.), **"The Mosquito"** (10:30 a.m.-noon), **"South Africa as a Case Study"** (1-2:30 p.m.), **"Gender-Based Violence and HIV Infection"** (3-4:30 p.m.), and **"Infection and Contagion: Reflections from the Humanities"** (4:45-5:30 p.m.). On December 4, sessions on **"Human Rights and HIV/AIDS"** (9-10:30 a.m.), **"Biodefense: Critical Perspectives"** (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.), and **"Sexuality and Anxiety"** (2-3:30 p.m.). 5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (3rd floor). Free. 936-3518.

***Ann Arbor FrontRunners.** Every Tuesday & Thursday. Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3-5 miles to run with FrontRunners members. 6:30 p.m., meet at Maiden Lane and Fuller in Fuller Park. Free. 741-1763.

***"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** December 2 & 9. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. 6:30-7:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

***"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running.** Every Thursday. All women invited to run a different course, 2-6 miles, each week. Directed by a certified running coach. Maps provided. Runners who accumulate 50 miles receive a "Damsel 'n' d' Street" T-shirt from Running Fit. Men also invited to run. Also, occasional post-run pizza outings. 6:30 p.m. (sign up at 6:15 p.m.), Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free (men, \$1). 657-0214.

***Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Tuesday & Thursday through December 9. Stories and songs for kids age 3 & up (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the West Branch, December 7, 10-10:30 a.m. & 2-2:30 p.m.; the Malletts Creek Branch, December 1 & 8, 9:30-10 a.m. & 11-11:30 a.m.; and the Northeast Branch, December 2 & 9, 9:30-10 a.m. & 11-11:30 a.m. 7-7:30 p.m. (Thurs.) & 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.). AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

***Washtenaw Toastmasters.** Every Thursday. Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). 7-9 p.m., 4205 Washtenaw. Free to visitors. Dues: \$52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 572-9978.

***Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition.** All invited to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking facilities in the county. 7 p.m., Ecology Center, 117 N. Division. Free. 487-9058.

"Circles of Prophecy": Crystal Clear Expressions. Psychic Nanci Rose Gerler channels empowering spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. \$20. Reservations requested. 996-8799.

***Monte Nagler: Barnes & Noble.** This veteran Detroit-area photographer signs copies of his 2005 *American Perspectives* calendar. 7-9 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-1618.

***"Red and Green Minerals": Huron Hills Lapidary Society.** Potluck (bring a dish to pass) and a Christmas rock and mineral swap (bring a red or green rock to swap). 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 434-8517.

***"Political Ecology of Famine: The North Korean Catastrophe and Its Lessons": U-M International Institute.** Lecture by U-M political science professor Meredith Woo-Cummings. Part of the International Institute's "Democratization, (De)Centralization, and Governance" lecture series. 7-8:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 615-8482.

***"Community Sing": U-M Museum of Art First Thursday Performance Series.** All invited to join local singers, led by Chris Kiver, in singing seasonal music. Piano accompanist TBA. 7 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

***Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-7867.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). \$4. 769-4324, 426-0241.

***Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Kenneth Westerman leads all 9 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program that includes George Gershwin's "Summertime," Cole Porter's "Anything Goes," winter songs, spirituals, and more. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

***Choir Concert: Huron Players.** Richard Ingram and Bonnie Kidd lead all 5 of the Huron choirs in works by local composer Annie Rose, Stephen Leek, Lionel Daunais, Z. Randall Stroop, and Rachmaninoff. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994-2040.

***"Sing! Sing!": Greenhills School.** Benjamin Cohen leads Greenhills choirs in a program of sacred and secular music that includes motets, madrigals, works by Mozart and Vivaldi, music from India, seasonal music, and more. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

***Ann Arbor Ski Club.** December 2 & 16. All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. This month's discussion topics TBA. Meetings are followed by a dance. Must be 21 or older. 8-11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. Free. 761-3419.

"Milonga la Practica": Motor City Milongueros. December 2, 9, & 16. Two hours of tango dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. 8-10 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$15 (members, 10; students, \$5). 973-2338.

Hilario Duran Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. This trio led by Cuban-born, Canadian-based pianist Duran perform what they call "New Danzon," a fresh, vibrant form of Latin jazz that adds bebop elements to traditional Cuban danzon, a forerunner of the mambo. The late jazz critic Robert Palmer says that Duran has "what old-time barrelhouse and boogie players used to call 'a left hand like God,' and a fertile harmonic and melodic imagination." His trio includes Canadian bassist Roberto Occhipinti and Grammy Award-winning Cuban-born New York-based percussionist Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Joe Jencks, Jen Cass, & Justin Roth: The Ark. In-the-round performances by these 3 young singer-songwriters. Jencks is a Seattle-based performer who writes politically and socially conscious songs in the tradition of Pete Seeger, Utah Phillips, and Charlie King. A former U-M law student recently transplanted to Bay City, Cass (see review, p. 99) writes sprightly, often sharply humorous pop-folk parables that have provoked comparisons to Mary Chapin Carpenter and Dar Williams. Roth, a big hit in his Ark debut opening for John Gorka a year ago, is a highly regarded young folk-oriented singer-songwriter from Minnesota known for his sharp-witted lyrics and his intricate guitar work. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Big Friendly Giant": EMU Theater of the Young. December 2-5. EMU drama professor Pat Zimmer directs David Wood's adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic fantasy about a young orphan girl who forms an unlikely friendship with the Big Friendly Giant when he sweeps her away to a strange land to help him stop the disgusting eating habits of other giants, including the Fleshumpeaters, Gizzardgulers, and Bonecrunchers. Aimed at theatergoers age 6 & older. 8 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell



The bluegrass band Lare Williams & New Direction opens for the RFD Boys at the Ark Dec. 3.

St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets \$12 (matinees, \$10) in advance up to 30 minutes before the show; \$14 (matinee, \$12) at the door. Group discounts available. 487-1221.

"The Gondoliers": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. December 2-5. Mitch Gillett directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's 1889 comic operetta about 2 handsome gondoliers whose romances with Venetian peasant girls are interrupted when a misunderstanding makes them kings for a day. Accidental bigamy, an arranged royal marriage, and switched-at-birth babies add twists to the lighthearted satire. The score features the songs "We're Called Gondoliers," "I Am a Courtier," and "Dance a Cachuca." The cast includes Ben Robinson, Andrew Hill, Jack Fitzwilliam, Scott Lindroth, and Matthew D. Grace. Musical director is Thomas Schnauber. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets \$15 & \$20 (seniors, \$14 & 19; students, \$7 & 9) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. 764-2538.

"The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. December 2-5 & 9-12. Wendy Wright directs these 2 dark, vinegary, outrageously funny Davis Sedaris monologues that sourly skewer holiday hokeyness. *Santaland*, which stars Will Myers, takes an unblinking look at Sedaris's ill-fated stint as a jaundiced, snippy elf in a department store Santaland. *Greetings* features Wendy Katz-Hiller as a woman chirpily reading a newsy end-of-the-year holiday letter and trying with increasing strain to look on the bright side of a horrible washing machine accident and the unwelcome discovery of a previously unknown prostitute daughter. Mature audiences only. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance and at the door. 483-7345.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. Every Thursday through Sunday (except December 25), November 11-December 26. See review, p. 101. Performance Network artistic director Carla Milarch directs Joe Masteroff's charming musical set in a perfume shop during the Christmas season in pre-WW II Budapest. The action centers on 2 employees, Georg and Amalia, bitter foes in the workplace who are unwitting pen pals in a romantic correspondence. The script is adapted from Nikolaus Laszlo's *Parfumerie*, best known through Ernst Lubitsch's 1940 film classic *The Shop Around the Corner*. With music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, this is a delightful piece of fluff. Cast: Jennifer Joy, Scott Crownover, Naz Edwards, Charles Sutherland, Cliff Katskee, Andrew Miller, and Brian Thibault. Musical direction by Patrick Farrell, a member of the former local jazz fusion ensembles Poignant Plecostomus and Transmission who has given the score a Hungarian Gypsy-style arrangement for accordion/guitar, clarinet, bass, and violin. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$24.50 (Thurs. & Sun.), \$29.50 (Fri.), & \$32.50 (Sat.) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. Every Thursday. This brand-new improv club, founded by former Second City member Dan Izzo, features weekly contests between 2 local improv groups, a different pair each week. After the contesting troupes present a half hour of their best comedy, the audience selects one as the Baddest Cat in the Fight. 8 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main St. \$5. 214-7080.

Jim Dailakis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 2-4. This Australian comic is known for his arresting take on American habits and customs—and his knack for mimicking the voices and facial expressions of American movie stars. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

U-Club Poetry Slam. An open mike for local poets, followed at 9 p.m. by competitive readings by 10 U-M and EMU poets, from which a panel of 5 judges picks the winner. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. 8:30-11 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. \$3. 763-3202.

"Improv Challenge": Improv Inferno. Every Thursday. U-M comedy troupes Witt's End and ComCo each perform a half hour of improv. 18 & older only. 10 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. \$5. 214-7080.

"Jesus Cake, Fat-Pants, and the Theory of Relativity": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Enduring Love" (Roger Michell, 2004). See 1 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Korean Studies. **"The Foul King"** (Kim Chi-Un, 2000). Comedy about a beleaguered company drone, constantly belittled by his boss, who gets a Walter Mitty chance to become an ace wrestler and seek his revenge. Korean, subtitles. FREE. 764-1825. 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. 7 p.m.

3 FRIDAY

★"From Mobility to Accessibility: A Symposium on Sustainable Transportation": U-M College of Architecture. A day of talks by experts that examine transit systems and sustainability, traffic congestion, and other issues. Topics include "Some Realities about Future Congestion," "Transit and the Sustainable Metropolis," "Land-Use Regulation: Constraint on Transportation/Land-Use Choice," "Public Health and Sustainable Transportation," "Toward Integrated Mobility Solutions," and "Toward an Accessibility Framework for Transportation Policy." A response and Q&A period follows each talk. 8:45-11:30 a.m., Art and Architecture auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, & 1:30-5 p.m., Pierpont Commons, 2101 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-1300.

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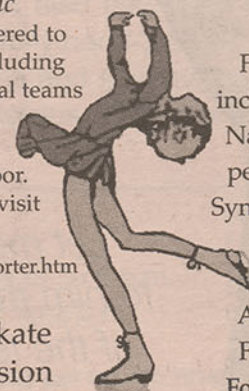
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Featuring skaters of all levels including our Regional, Sectional, National and International competitors. Our famous Hockettes Synchronised Teams will perform.

Admission: One canned food item per person

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HOLIDAY CARDS



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The University of Michigan

museum of art



"Let me explain
to him the whispers
of the teachings."

— Lega saying

Art of the Lega

Meaning and Metaphor in Central Africa

October 16, 2004 – January 16, 2005

Explore a world in which art is the textbook for life.

Art of the Lega: Meaning and Metaphor in Central Africa was co-organized and produced by the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Los Angeles, and The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

Human figure, Lega, Democratic Republic of Congo, wood and pigment. Photograph by Don Cole

The University of Michigan Museum of Art
525 South State Street, Ann Arbor
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Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Thursday 10-9;
Sunday 12-5; Monday closed

umma

3 FRIDAY EVENTS *continued*

★**"Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Friday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 20-30 miles, to either Dexter or the Waterloo Recreation Area. 9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851-8323 & (517) 285-6830 (today's ride), 994-0044 (general information).

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. December 3 & 4. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, TVs, VCRs, turntables & speakers, hardware, appliances, computers, boots, winter clothing, jewelry, cameras, antiques, and lots of good-quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665-0450.

"Tiny Tots Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Hands-on outdoor nature activities (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6 per child. 997-1553.

★**"Downtown Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** December 3 & 10. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. 10-11 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**22nd Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** December 3-6. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit includes creches (Nativity scenes) from more than 100 countries around the world, many of them new this year. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century *presepio* (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 10 wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes almost 900 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 15-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and hand-made Nativity balls. There are also 7 "walk-in" rooms devoted to Latin American, African, Eastern European, Asian, and American creches, as well as a room of spinning light-mill Nativities and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. One of the most striking displays is a large French *Santon* village featuring over 100 *Santons* (mini-saints) carrying gifts to the manger. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals, and styles range from simple childlike figures to elegant original designs. Five "look-in" rooms hold the breakable *Lladro*, *Lennox*, and *Hummel* creches, as well as one from Singapore and a stage with 7 large Nativity marionettes from the Czech Republic. The creches range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to an African Nativity portraying Joseph as a 25½-tall Masai warrior. Also, at 7:30 p.m. tonight only, a Christmas concert features a variety of vocal and instrumental Christmas music. Program: the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, a string quartet, a women's vocal ensemble, a vocal trio, a flute solo by Becky Allmand, a French horn solo by David Denniston, a cello solo by Nathan Jasinski, a vocal solo by Tara Denniston, a violin solo by Corine Hart, an organ solo by Paul Walker, and Alfred Burt's "Some Children See Him" by soprano Jennifer Larsen. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665-7852, 663-3699.

★**"Local Babies, Global Science: Gender, Religion, and In-Vitro Fertilization in Egypt": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by CMENAS director Marcia Inhorn. 11 a.m.-noon, 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0350.

IT Zone Creativity Forum. Jan Nichols of Market Arts hosts a discussion with U-M Michigan Public Media director Donovan Reynolds, who addresses the tension in creating programming that both attracts an audience and appeals to sponsors. Bring a bag lunch. Noon-1:30 p.m., IT Zone, 330 E. Liberty. \$5 (members, free). Preregistration required at annarboritzone.org. 665-9403.

★**"Women, Gender, Queer, Archive": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talks by U-M history professor Michele Mitchell and U-M American culture professor Carroll Smith-Rosenberg. Noon-1:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★**"Nationalism in Modern South Asian Art: The Case of Sadequain": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Talk by Cornell University art history professor Iftekhar Dadi. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-5261.

★**Bridge Group: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Every Monday & Friday except December 24. All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

★**Scrabble: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Every Friday except December 24. All seniors invited to play Scrabble. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

Bingo/Cribbage: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Friday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play cribbage or a variety of styles of bingo. 1-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center. \$3.25. 769-5911.

★**Musicology Lecture: U-M School of Music.** Talk on a topic TBA by U-M women's studies professor Naomi Andre. 4:30 p.m., Burton Memorial Tower. Free. 763-4726.

★**Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Friday. All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m.-midnight, Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

★**"Parents' Night Out": Ann Arbor YMCA.** December 3 & 10. Parents invited to drop off their kids ages 2-12 invited for pizza, a G-rated movie, games, and sports. Also, swimming for kids 5 & older (bring a suit). 6-10 p.m., Ann Arbor Y, 350 S. Fifth Ave. \$15 per child. Preregistration requested. 663-0536.

★**16th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** December 3-5. This popular community celebration, formerly known as the Festival of Lights, offers a variety of family activities and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Tonight's special events begin with a tree lighting (6:30 p.m., next to the McKune House on Main at Orchard). Santa opens his workshop, where children can participate in crafts while waiting to share their Christmas wishes (7-8:30 p.m., UAW Hall). Also, a living Nativity complete with live animals (7-8:30 p.m., Main at Orchard). 6:30-9:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475-1145.

★**Bilingual Chinese Storytime: Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL librarians and interpreter Xu Li present a program of stories in English and Chinese for kids age 3 & up. 7-7:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** Every Friday through December 19. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Tonight's entertainment includes performances by the women's a cappella quartet the Nutones, the Choral Connection Sweet Adelines chorus, the Huron High School a cappella choir, and juggler Tim Salisbury. Also, Flint's Antique Organ street organ grinders (December 3, 10, & 17), the Arbor Consort madrigals chorus in period costume (December 3, 10, & 17), bagpiper Herm Steinman (December 3, 10, & 17), country singer-guitarist Rick Smith (December 3, 10, & 17), the Harmony 4 Fun women's a cappella quartet (December 10), the Cerberus Jazz Quartet (December 10 & 17), and the County Connection Chorus (December 17). Kids can drop off letters to Santa at a special mailbox at 347 S. Main (next to Generations) beginning November 26, with "postage to the North Pole compliments of the MSAA." 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

★**Caroling Party: Kempf House Museum (Ann Arbor Parks Department).** All invited to gather at this historic home before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols, with accompaniment by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider, cookies, and more caroling. Also, a chance to tour the Kempf House to view 19th-century Christmas decorations. 7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994-4898.

★**Choir Concert: St. Mary Student Parish.** Peppy U-M student Amy Weatherford leads the church's 40-member Newman Choir in a program of seasonal music and favorite hymns. Proceeds benefit a charity TBA. 7 p.m., St. Mary Student Parish, 331 Thompson. Donation. 663-0557, ext. 0.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 996-1332.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Notre Dame. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$12-\$17. 764-0247.

Compulsive Lyres. This 13-member U-M coed a

cappella group won first place in the International Championship of College A Cappella in 2002, the first U-M group to do so. Tonight's program is a mix of pop, rock, and oldies. 7:30 p.m., Angell Hall auditorium B. Tickets (cost TBA) at the door only. 763-1107.

26th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. December 3-5. Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$12 (ages 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office. 995-4612.

***"A Christmas Carol": U-M Clements Library.** Tentative. Dickens scholar Bert Hornback, a U-M English professor emeritus, presents his very popular annual reading of the 19th-century novelist's beloved Christmas fable. As is his custom, Hornback performs as if he is Dickens himself, wearing Victorian costume and standing at a lectern that is a replica of Dickens's own. Hornback has performed as Dickens throughout the world, and he so closely identifies with his alter ego that some people wonder if he doesn't secretly believe he is Dickens. Before the reading, Hornback usually indulges his political passions with a brief address on the current state of the world—something he insists Dickens, with his lively social conscience, would do if he were alive today. 7:30 p.m., U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764-2347.

***Orchestra and String Ensemble Concert: Greenhills School.** Deborah Henderson conducts these student ensembles in a program TBA. Followed by a reception. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

Lewis Black: Clear Channel Entertainment. This acclaimed humorist, a regular political commentator on *The Daily Show* who calls himself "America's foremost commentator on everything," is known for his biting, razor-witted commentary, often in a tone of astonished outrage, on human folly in its various guises. The material on his new CD, *The Rules of Engagement*, ranges from Iraq, corporate fraud, and Martha Stewart to Minnesota winters and health clubs. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$32.75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

***Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: fiction by Bethany Snyder and poetry by Carrie Strand. 8 p.m., location TBA. Free. 615-3710.

Ryan Mackstaller New Quintet: Canterbury House. Detroit-born composer-guitarist Mackstaller, a member of the avant jazz-rock trio JusThis, leads his quintet in a performance highlighted by the wordless singing of vocalist Andy Kirshner. With electric bassist Chuck Bartels, saxophonist Andrew Bishop, and drummer Alex Trajano. A *Metro Times* critic calls Mackstaller "one of the most progressive and broad-minded guitarists around." 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5-\$10 donation. 764-3162.

Dan Hall: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Michigan singer-songwriter known for songs about everything from life aboard Great Lakes freighters to the struggles of working people to the joys of riding grocery carts. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$10 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

RFD Boys: The Ark. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. Opening act is **Lare Williams & New Direction**, a classy young traditional bluegrass band from western Michigan. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. \$11 (students, seniors, & members, \$10) at the door only. 761-1451.

"Swan Lake": EMU Music Department. EMU dance students present an abridged version of Tchaikovsky's celebrated ballet. The scores are performed by the EMU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony. Also, the program is presented at 2 free chil-

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Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Conveniently located at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor. Take US 23 to exit 41, then 1/2 mile East - follow the signs to Domino's Farms on Earhart Road, North of Plymouth Road. Entrance is at Lobby B.

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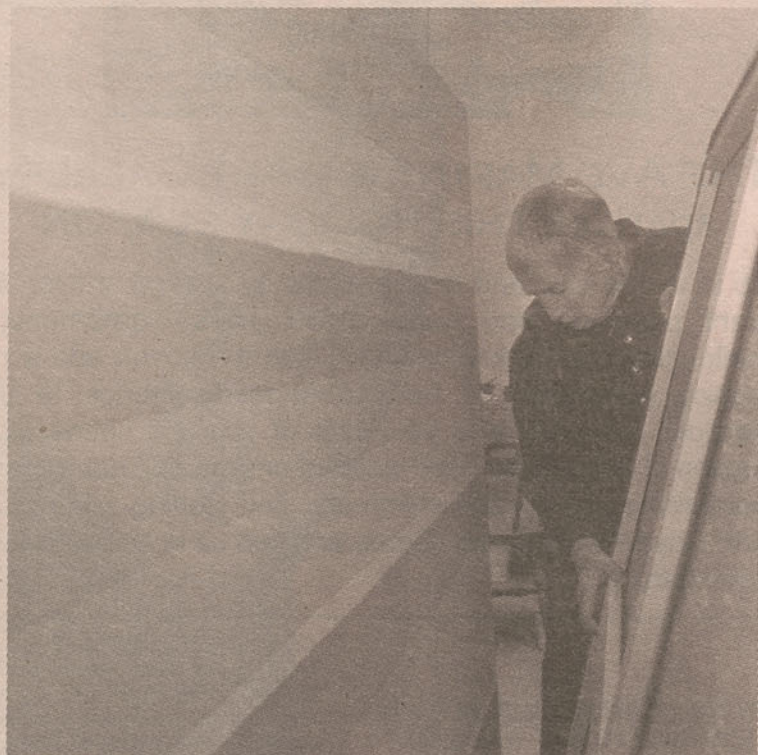
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Sun., Dec. 12: 12:00-5:30
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This exhibition is made possible in part by the Lannan Foundation. Educational program support has been provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.



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3 FRIDAY EVENTS continued



Over the Rhine, a quartet led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, performs rock 'n' roll at the Ark Dec. 5.

dren's concerts (reservations required) earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$8 (seniors & students, \$6) in advance, \$10 (students & seniors, \$8) at the door. 487-2282.

"The Big Friendly Giant": EMU Theater of the Young. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Gondoliers": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. Every Friday & Saturday except December 24 & 25. Six improv comics compete for best comedian by playing silly improv games, a la *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Each comic competes on behalf of 6 audience members for such fabulous prizes as a mealtime supply of Rice-a-Roni. When Improv Inferno founder Dan Izzo premiered the Damnation Game in Chicago, a *New City Magazine* critic called it "good fun." Ages 18 & older admitted. The club rates the 8 p.m. show PG-13, the 10 p.m. show R. 8 & 10 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

Jim Dailakis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

1st Friday Dance: Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s-90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 973-1933.

★Sambani: Ten Thousand Villages. Concert by this local West African-style percussion ensemble in Ten Thousand Villages' brand-new store full of hand-made crafts, clothing, and gift items from around the world. 9 p.m., Ten Thousand Villages, 303 S. Main. Free admission. 332-1270.

Ekoostik Hookah: The Blind Pig. Annual "Hash Bash" performance by this acoustic neohippie dance band from Columbus, Ohio, whose music is an artful, invigorating mix of psychedelic rock 'n' roll, jazz, funk, and bluegrass. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, \$10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

"Jesus Cake, Fat-Pants, and the Theory of Relativity": Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 11 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. Every Friday & Saturday except December 24 & 25. Members of the Improv Inferno ensemble and guest comics present an hour of uncensored improv. Midnight, Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Machinist"

(Brad Anderson, 2004). December 3-9. Harrowing, austere noir thriller about an insomniac machinist with a dark secret that leads him into danger. Christian Bale, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon. \$8.50 (children, students, veterans, & seniors, \$5.50). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

4 SATURDAY

"Winter Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike through a variety of habitats to discover what bird species are in the park. Bring binoculars and a field guide. 8 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$2. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426-8211.

★T'ai Chi. Every Saturday & Sunday. Local martial arts instructor Gabriel Chin leads a session of t'ai chi, which combines an exaggeratedly slow martial art and meditation. 8:30 a.m., the Cube, north side of Michigan Union. Free. 761-3272.

Saline Community Education Craft Show. Juried show of works by more than 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Christmas greens available. Also, bake sale and other food concessions. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7265 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$2. 429-5922.

★"Celebration Saturday": Peace Lutheran Church. Parents can drop off kids for a morning of songs, a puppet show, games, and lunch. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Peace Lutheran, 8260 Jackson Rd. Free, donations accepted. Preregistration required. 424-0899.

Holiday Art and Craft Festival: American Business Women's Association/Pioneer Women's Athletics. Show and sale of arts and crafts from 135 exhibitors from Michigan and Ohio. Proceeds benefit an ABWA educational fund and Pioneer women's sports teams. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pioneer High School, 601 W. Stadium at Main. \$2 admission (children 12 & younger, free). 649-7749.

Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival, with the costume character of frosty old King Winter at the door to welcome kids. An activity room features crafts for kids, a children-only gift room has goodies priced for wee budgets, and a quiet tearoom offers a rest spot. One room offers Waldorf toys, which emphasize natural materials, and creative crafts and arts activities. Also, puppet storytelling, live musical presentations by students, and an artisan market bazaar. Faculty and staff are on hand to answer questions about the school. Lunch available, with dishes by area restaurants. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission (nominal fee for some activities). 995-4141.

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday. 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. Note: Riders should be prepared to

A&D

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calendar of events

December '04

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2		3	4
			<div data-bbox="504 452 782 736"> </div> <div data-bbox="872 455 1152 705"> <p>PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SERIES PRESENTATION: LOURDES PORTILLO Born in Mexico and Chicana identified, writer, director and filmmaker Lourdes Portillo creates work focused on the search for Latino identity. She has worked in a range of forms, from television documentary to satirical video-film collage. Reception following at Work, 306 S. State.</p> <p>PRESENTATION: 5:00pm FREE ADMISSION</p> <p>Michigan Theater 107 E. Liberty</p> </div>		<div data-bbox="1214 365 1479 642"> </div> <div data-bbox="1551 365 1825 642"> <p>EXHIBITION: DRAWING A PULSE A group exhibition of drawings by some of the country's most engaging artists, including Jill Baroff, Marco Breuer, Amy Cutler, Christine Hiebert, Barry McGee, Marco Maggi, Paul Noble, Robyn O'Neil, Matthew Ritchie, James Siena, Allyson Stratella, Tam Van Tran.</p> <p>Jean Paul Slusser Gallery Art & Architecture Bldg. 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. Hours: M-F 11am-3pm, Sa 11am-4pm</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1214 652 1479 929"> </div> <div data-bbox="1551 694 1825 929"> <p>EXHIBITION: MY DISEASE MEMORY SKELETON New work by A&D MFA candidates Elisabeth Strunk, Sarah Buckius, Ben Van Dyke and Steven Hixson.</p> <p>Warren Robbins Gallery Art & Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. M-F 9am-5pm, Closed Sa/Su and Major Holidays</p> </div>
5	6	7	8	9	10	
	<div data-bbox="181 663 461 947"> </div> <div data-bbox="461 1015 723 1258"> <p>PERFORMANCE: LISTEN LOOK LISTEN An evening of sound and video art by students in the Soundprints and Sound for Video courses.</p> <p>PERFORMANCE: 5:00pm FREE ADMISSION Reception to follow.</p> <p>Video and Performance Studio Duderstadt Center, North Campus</p> </div>		<div data-bbox="887 1000 1167 1258"> <p>PERFORMANCE: AUGMENTED & AVATAR BODIES: Muscle Machine, Prosthetic Head and 1/4 Scale Ear Cutting-edge artist Stelarc examines the scientific advances that make the human body, as we now know it, obsolete. He has performed with a third hand, a virtual arm, and a stomach sculpture. Currently, Stelarc is growing a third ear. Cosponsored by the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Series and The Life Sciences Institute.</p> <p>PRESENTATION: 5:00pm FREE ADMISSION</p> <p>Forum Hall Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw Ave.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="887 1405 1167 1695"> </div>	<div data-bbox="1195 1015 1475 1279"> <p>12.10 - 1.29 EXHIBITION: 2004 FACULTY EXHIBITION Featuring work in a range of media by full time faculty at the School of Art & Design.</p> <p>OPENING RECEPTION: DECEMBER 10 6:00-9:00pm</p> <p>Jean Paul Slusser Gallery Art & Architecture Bldg. M-F 11am-3pm, Sa 11am-4pm</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1195 1331 1475 1668"> <p>12.10 - 01.29 EXHIBITION: SPEAKING VOLUMES 3-dimensional work in a variety of media by School of Art & Design undergraduates.</p> <p>EXHIBITION lower level: (OUR)SELVES New work by A&D undergraduates James Amdt, Mary Paul and Emily Squires.</p> <p>OPENING RECEPTIONS: DECEMBER 10 6:00-9:00pm</p> <p>Work 306 S. State St. T/W/Th 12-7pm, F/Sat 12-8pm, Su 12-5pm</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="1516 936 1796 1215"> </div> <div data-bbox="1551 1247 1825 1563"> <p>12.10 INSTALLATION: TROUBLE IN PARADISE AND VOILA! IRON CHEF/NOMADIC KITCHEN Students of A&D Assistant Professor Satoru Takahashi make devices for a post-utopian nomadic society including reconfigured vehicles, as well as grilling devices for the portable kitchen.</p> <p>A&A BUILDING: 6:00-8:00pm</p> <p>School of Art & Design A&A Building, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.</p> </div>	
	<div data-bbox="153 1497 431 1781"> </div> <div data-bbox="461 1310 723 1668"> <p>12.06 - 12.11 EXHIBITION 1: AFTER TEARS Visiting South African artist Mtsamali David Tshabalala explores issues of loss and memory in recent sculptures that utilize plaster, fabric and light.</p> <p>EXHIBITION 2: DISPLACEMENT II Visiting South African artist Jeanott Ladeira examines the displacement of people both in Africa and the U.S.</p> <p>OPENING RECEPTIONS: DECEMBER 10 6:00-9:00pm</p> <p>Warren Robbins Gallery Art & Architecture Bldg. M-F 9am - 5pm</p> </div>					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<div data-bbox="461 1718 723 1997"> <p>PERFORMANCE: REAL/TIME: In PROGRESS Live performance and time-based works-in-progress hosted by A&D MFA candidates Jim Leija and Carrie Morris.</p> <p>PERFORMANCE: 7:00pm FREE ADMISSION</p> <p>Video and Performance Studio Duderstadt Center, North Campus</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="811 1734 1091 2010"> </div>				<div data-bbox="1551 1589 1825 1866"> </div>
19	20	21	22	23		
<div data-bbox="130 2060 416 2353"> </div>	<div data-bbox="461 2029 723 2376"> <p>12.20 - 02.05 EXHIBITION: DELINQUENT SYSTEMS Some systems have a mind of their own. The delinquent systems of the domestic, the body, the senses, landscape, and technology are the subjects for artists Christa Donner, Robert Goodman, Andrea Landau, Jason Yoh, and A&D MFA candidate Chris Landau.</p> <p>OPENING RECEPTION: JANUARY 7, 2005 6:00-9:00pm</p> <p>Warren Robbins Gallery Art & Architecture Bldg. M-F 9am-5pm</p> </div>					<div data-bbox="1459 1984 1743 2274"> </div>
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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4 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913-9851.

★Walk: Grex. Every Saturday (different locations) except December 25. All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (December 4) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (December 11 & 18). 10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Dec. 4) and in Gallup Park parking lot (Dec. 11 & 18), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741-9351.

Trunk Shows: Heavenly Metal. December 4, 11, & 18. Shows and sales of works by local artists. Today: beaded bracelets by Dianna Hogan and silk scarves and ponchos by fabric artist Lucyna Harland. Also this month: handmade jewelry by Kristin Perkins (December 11) and earrings and bracelets by Christine Schopieray and pots and candlesticks by Phil Wilson (December 18). 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Heavenly Metal (inside Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts), 207 E. Ann. Free admission. 663-4247.

"Friends of the 4 Friends Holiday Show and Sale": Marsi Darwin, Marlene Dusbiber, Susan Falcone, and Tracy Gallup. Show and sale of wood carvings, jewelry, stained glass, paintings, and more by these 4 Chelsea and Ann Arbor artists. Also, works by other local artists. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Manchester (take I-94 to exit 159 north; go north 1 mile and turn west on Old US-12; the fairgrounds are 1/4 mile down on the left.) Free admission. 475-9730.

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. Also, a separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit 10 children's books per family). 10 a.m.-4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 327-4560.

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 4 & 5. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

"The Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage." December 4, 11, 18. Sale of a wide range of unique Nepalese gift items by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her adventure tour business Of Global Interest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. 369-3107.

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor FiberArts Guild. December 4 & 5. Hand-woven clothing, ornaments, table linens, baskets, toys, beadwork, handmade paper, felted hangings, yarns, dolls, and quilts. Proceeds from ornament sales benefit SAFE House. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 665-0703.

Winter Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Show and sale of hats, quilts, and various warm, fuzzy handmade clothing items. "We're knittin' our fingers to the bone," gasps an organizer. Also, a "grandmother's attic" area of fancy shawls, beaded bags, and other items. Bake sale. Hot food available. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., DSC, 7720 Ann Arbor St. Free admission. 424-0258.

Holiday Art Show. Show and sale of local works in various media by artisans, including metal sculpture, hand-knit items, painted floor cloths, mosaic tile pieces, paper art, silver jewelry, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St., east off Main St. just north of Middle St., Chelsea. Free admission. 476-0163.

★"Holiday Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tile-works. All invited to tour the studio, decorate a 4-by-4-inch tile to be glazed and fired for later pickup (11 a.m.-4 p.m.), and see tile-related demonstrations on mounting and grouting tile (1:30 p.m.), press-molding tile (1:15 & 3:15 p.m.), and glazing (1 & 3 p.m.). Also, studio tours (11 a.m., noon, 1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m.), prize drawings, and a sale of Motawi tiles. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213-0017.

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December 4 & 5. This 19th-century German-immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Natural decorations of cedar, pinecones, nuts, flowers, and herbs festoon the main house, where guides in period costume explain holiday preparations that typically would have been going on in each room. Christmas music tinkles from dulcimers and the parlor melodeon, as aromas of

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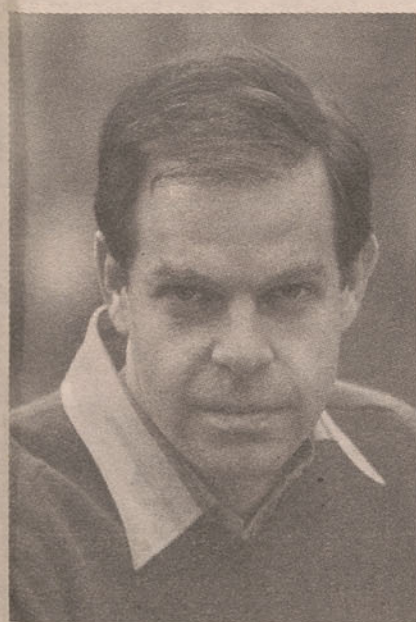
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jazz



Bill Charlap A different path

When I listen to younger jazz pianists, I sometimes wonder if the instrument does not have too many keys. Most of them have prodigious technique developed by many years of classical training, and many of them take their cues from showy virtuosos of the past. They love tradition and have absorbed lessons from their favorite pianists, concentrating on rhapsodic precedents such as McCoy Tyner, Herbie Hancock, and especially Bill Evans in the later phase of his career. There is nothing wrong with that, of course, and one's reaction to such playing is simply a matter of taste. The jazz piano tradition is varied enough that there are many approaches to the music. There are, however, some younger mainstream pianists who have different tastes, and who have distinguished themselves by following a somewhat differ-

ent path. Among these, my favorite by far is Bill Charlap.

To be sure, Charlap appears to have listened to every major jazz pianist, and he references them in his playing, but he is not one's disciple, and he does not imitate. He eschews the rhapsodic excesses that are currently much too common, and seeks out new melodies, often sparse, that illuminate and extend songs. In writing about his work, most reviewers mention the influence of Bill Evans; it is there, of course, but I think of two other pianists when I hear his music: Jimmy Rowles and Ahmad Jamal. It seems to me that the former taught him how to play with melody and harmony in a wry, sometimes playful manner, and the latter provided him with ideas about rhythm, space, and the virtues of silence.

Charlap likes strong melodies, which is why he records standards, but he also appreciates more modern composers such as Ornette Coleman. In the context of the trio he will often reduce his playing to a minimum, allowing the bass and drums to carry much of the weight, only to come back dramatically with a new, jagged melody of his own that takes it all in a new direction. It never sounds like Jamal, but the idea is certainly there.

Charlap comes from a musical family and began playing at an early age. His parents were involved with popular music—his father as a Broadway composer, his mother as a singer—and he grew up immersed in the Great American Songbook. His professional career has been stellar: he began with a stint as Gerry Mulligan's pianist and graduated to leading his own trio and being, for the last decade, a member of Phil Woods's combo. He has appeared as a sideman in more than fifty recordings, and his own sessions have won much critical acclaim.

None of these prepares us for his Kerrytown Concert House recital on Friday, December 10, where he will appear on the stage alone, without the usual support. As far as I know, he has not been to our town before, and this should be a jazz piano delight.

—Piotr Michalowski

wild game, squash, and potatoes waft from the kitchen's woodstove. Free hot spiced cider and cookies in the farm's separate log cabin, decorated 1850s style. Also, a gift shop with old-fashioned toys, books, handmade soaps and candles, fresh greenery items, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 4) & noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 5). Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. (From exit 153 on I-94, follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) \$2 admission (children 5-17, \$1; 4 & younger, free). 426-9135, (313) 278-3701.

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day":** U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day. This family-oriented dinosaur program includes a scavenger hunt and other hands-on activities for kids, demonstrations, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. Free. 764-0478.

★**16th Annual Hometown Holiday:** Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 3 Friday. Today's special events: a visit from Santa (1-4 p.m.), walking tour of historic buildings (2, 3, & 4 p.m., First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle), and a downtown Light Parade (6 p.m.). The parade is followed at the clock tower complex by a festive party with carol singing and refreshments. Also, other events TBA. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

★**22nd Annual Christmas Creche Display:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 3 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

★**"Challenging U.S. Policy Toward Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East":** Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Talk by former Women's International League for Peace and Freedom executive director Libby Frank. Refreshments. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 975-0861.

★**"Sufism: The Mystical Path of Love."** Talk by Sufi healer Kirk Laman, a holistic cardiologist from

Livonia. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. (734) 464-3251.

★**Draw Doubles:** Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) 434-1615.

★**"Traditional Crafts from Nepal":** The Ark. Sale of crafts from Weaving Hope for Women, a project for women survivors of violence and civil war refugees in Nepal. Includes hand-loomed textiles and clothing, fine silver gemstone jewelry, handmade paper items, Buddhist statues, and more. Proceeds benefit the Ark. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free admission. 662-5253.

★**Dexter's Victorian Christmas:** Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. December 4 & 11. The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Horse-drawn carriage rides (nominal fee TBA) available throughout the day, and Santa is on hand to talk with kids and have photos taken with them for free. Petting zoo. Food for sale. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426-0887.

★**Today's Brass Quintet:** Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph

DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★**Pickup Game:** Ann Arbor Ultimate. All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. 11:30 a.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.org

★**"The Sky Tonight"/"Season of Light":** U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 19 and December 20-23 & 27-30. The Sky Tonight (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both weekend days and holiday weekdays) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. Season of Light (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both weekend days and holiday weekdays) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$3.75. 764-0478.

★**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Notre Dame.** Noon, Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

★**Peace Vigil:** Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Every Tuesday & Saturday. All invited to gather to call for a peaceful response to the events of September 11. Noon-1 p.m., Federal Bldg., Liberty at Fifth Ave. Free. 663-1870.

★**Santa:** Dixboro General Store. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 19. Santa is on hand to talk to kids. Also, on December 12 only, he brings along one of his reindeer. Parents welcome to bring their cameras. Noon-4 p.m., Dixboro General Store, 5206 Plymouth Rd. just east of Dixboro Rd. Free. 663-5558.

★**Open House:** Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum on Main Street. A chance to view A Taste of the Season, the current exhibit on 19th-century table settings and re-creations of Christmas recipes. Recipe copies available. Also, homemade taffy, butterscotch cakes, and candy canes. Noon-2 p.m., Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main. Free. 662-9092.

★**Mech Warrior Tournament: The Underworld.** Every Saturday except December 25. All invited to play one of these very popular tactical miniatures board games. Prizes. 1-5 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998-0547.

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Tuesday & Saturday except December 25. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 1-3 p.m. (Sat.) & 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Tues.), location TBA. Free. 222-9803, 761-1115.

★**"The Way of the World":** Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. December 4 & 5. All invited to try out for a part in a March 17-20 production of William Congreve's Restoration comedy. 1-6 p.m., Copeland Administration Bldg. auditorium, 7714 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., Dexter. Free. 484-6962.

★**German Family Christmas:** Kempf House Museum (Ann Arbor Parks Department). December 4, 5, 11, & 12. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German American celebration of Christmas. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$1 (children under 12, free). 994-4898.

★**Hidden Lake Gardens Hike:** Huron Valley Sierra Club. All invited to join club members for a 4-mile hike in these MSU botanical gardens in the Irish Hills. 2 p.m., meet at Saline Shopping Center by Cottage Inn to carpool. Free. 429-0671.

★**Dinosaur Tours:** U-M Exhibit Museum. Every Saturday & Sunday except December 25. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

★**"Learning from Objects: A Conversation about Visual Culture in Africa":** U-M Museum of Art Performance Series. Panel discussion with U-M history of art professor David Doris, U-M African studies professor Ray Silverman, and University of California art history professor Elizabeth Cameron, curator of the current UMMA exhibit Art of the Lega: Meaning and Metaphor in Central Africa (see review, p. 104). 2-4 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

★**"The Life and Music of B. B. King":** Ann Arbor District Library. WEMU host Michael Jewett discusses the blues legend who performs at the Michigan Theater on December 8 (see listing). 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

★**Kids Drum Circle with Muruga and Oz:** Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by veteran Detroit percussionist Muruga Booker and/or Oz's owner Steve Osburn. 3 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. \$10. 662-8283.

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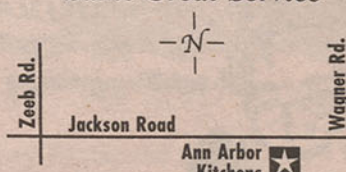


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4 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

★**ASL/Silent Coffee Hour.** All hearing and deaf American Sign Language speakers invited to an hour of chat in American Sign Language (ASL). 4 p.m., Eastern Accents, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Free. fab@umich.edu.

★**"The Big Friendly Giant":** EMU Theater of the Young. See 2 Thursday. 4 & 7 p.m.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** December 4 & 11. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. 5:15 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332-9132.

★**"29th Annual Holiday Parade in Saline":** Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Holiday fun highlighted by a parade (5:30 p.m.) down Michigan Avenue from Davenport Street, featuring Santa, Mrs. Claus, and live reindeer. Kids can visit the Bixby Marionette exhibit (141 E. Michigan Ave.) and Santa's Village (Union School, 200 N. Ann Arbor St.). Live music in the Union School gym by the Saline Fiddlers, the Fiddlers Restrung, and other groups TBA. Park at Busch's and take a shuttle downtown. 5:30 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429-4494.

★**"Holiday Zenefit Auction":** Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. Live auction of a variety of donated goods and services, ranging from a sight-seeing flight over Ann Arbor to a vegetarian meal prepared fresh in your home and a tattoo by a local tattoo artist. The program begins with a reception with live musical entertainment by Zen Buddhist Temple members and food prepared by the Temple's talented Dharma chefs. 6 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. \$5. 761-6520.

★**Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Saturday except December 25. All invited to play any of the role-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m.-midnight, The Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

★**"Family Latke Hop":** Jewish Community Center. Dinner, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle lighting ceremony. 6-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$12 (kids, \$6). Reservations requested. 971-0990.

★**Hip-Hop Explosion: The Neutral Zone.** Hip-hop by OneManArmy, Majestik Legend, NowOn, Tashere Da Enagetic, Cysion, Seven Tre Quad, S. A. and Tenacity, and other performers TBA. 7 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$5 (members, \$3). 214-9995.

★**"Creative Matter: A Spectacle of Local Art":** Dreamland Theater. Auction of art works by local artists. Live music, including psychedelic horror-rock by Black Sky and Japanese demonic reggae by Majutsu. In conjunction with the "Creative Matters" exhibit (see Galleries). 7 p.m., 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Cost TBA. 657-2337.

★**"Nutcracker: 36th Annual Holiday Dance":** Ypsilanti Area Dancers. December 4 & 5. Heidi Bisto leads a company of dancers ages 6-18 in a traditional production of Tchaikovsky's popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. 2 & 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard. Tickets \$12 in advance in Ann Arbor at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) and at the door. 429-0410.

★**"An Evening at the Nutcracker":** 29th Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. Lavishly decorated Nutcracker ballet-themed gala with cocktails (7 p.m.) and a gourmet dinner (8 p.m.), followed by ballroom dancing until 1 a.m. to the Detroit-area Simone Vitale Band. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. All decorations may be previewed and purchased (2-4 p.m.), for pickup tomorrow. Proceeds benefit the construction of a new surgery pavilion. 7 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. \$1,250 (dancing & dessert only, \$300) per couple. Reservations required. 712-4040.

★**"8th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit":** Sacred Song. Jeanne Mackey directs this 12-member local vocal ensemble in an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert fea-

tures works performed a cappella and with instrumental accompaniment. Sacred Song members are Julia B., Lisa Marshall Bashert, Yarrow Halstead, Laura Machida, Cassandra Montgomery, Kathy Moore, Dale Petty, Andrew Schreiber, Robin Wilson, LaRon Williams, Gae Winn, and director Mackey. Guest performers include singer-songwriters Lisa Hunter and Dan Bilich, African griot Mady Kouyate, bassist Ted Ribbens, the Latino children's chorus Alas de Fuego, and Carpenter and Wines elementary school students. Proceeds benefit Growing Hope, an Ypsilanti-based organization that promotes community gardening, and Asociacion Latina Alcanzando Sueños, which promotes social and academic success for Latino children in Washtenaw County. 7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. \$5-\$20 sliding scale at the door only. 975-8791.

★**26th Annual Boar's Head Festival:** Concordia University. See 3 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**1st Saturday Contra Dance:** Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Peter Baker calls to live music by Hotpoint. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by a 3-6 p.m. open jam (bring your instrument). 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$9 (AACT-MAD members, \$8; students, \$5). 769-1052 (dance), 769-4220 (jam).

★**International Folk Dancing.** Balkan and Israeli line dancing, with live music by the Ethnic Connection. 8-11 p.m., Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). \$8 (students, \$3-\$5). 995-0011.

★**EMU University and Chamber Choirs:** EMU Music Department. Leonard Riccinto directs these music-student ensembles in a holiday celebration featuring choral masterworks. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**The Sopranos.** This punky 11-member all-female a cappella group performs everything from "My Strongest Suit" from Elton John and Tim Rice's musical *Aida* to "He Has a Boyfriend Now," the group's tweaked version of Real Big Fish's "She Has a Girlfriend Now." Also, Coldplay's "Yellow" and a crowd-pleasing choreographed version of Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." 8 p.m., 1360 East Hall, 525 E. University. Tickets \$8 (students, \$5) at the door only. 763-1107.

★**"Playtime with the Dicks and Janes":** U-M Dicks and Janes Fall Concert. This 15-member coed student a cappella chorus performs a variety of pop tunes that include "I Wish I Could Go Back to College" from the Broadway hit musical *Avenue Q*, Jason Mraz's "The Remedy," Rascal Flatts's "Love You Out Loud," and a stirring version of Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance with Somebody." 8 p.m., Modern Languages auditorium 4, 812 E. Washington. Cost TBA. 763-1107.

★**U-M Creative Arts Orchestra with Oliver Lake:** Canterbury House. Mark Kirschenmenn leads this noted music-student ensemble, which "raised the roof" at last year's Edgefest and has performed at New York's Knitting Factory and at the Ford Detroit International Festival (formerly the Montreux Jazz Festival). They're joined by Arkansas-born avant saxophonist Oliver Lake, whose playing the late *New York Times* music critic Robert Palmer described as "a flow of images and colors that change rapidly but beguilingly, like an elegantly edited film." The program includes compositions and improvisations featuring an eclectic mix of jazz, rock, ethnic, and contemporary concert music. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5-\$10 donation. 764-3162.

★**126th Annual "Messiah":** University Musical Society. December 4 & 5. The annual University Choral Union performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. This year's *Messiah* features the "Mozart" edition to which Mozart added additional orchestration. Jerry Blackstone directs the chorus and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Ilana Davidson, mezzo-soprano Susan Platts, tenor Richard Clement, and baritone Brett Polegato. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$10-\$28 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

★**Don White: The Ark.** This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 3 acclaimed CDs. Opening act is **Mustard's Retreat**, the popular veteran local acoustic duo of Michael Hough and David Tamulevich. They per-



Named Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards, Elvira Kurt performs at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Dec. 9-11.

form original pieces that alternate between Hough's sometimes spellbinding, sometimes humorous narrative ballads, and Tamulevich's poignant lyrical songs. Both are accomplished guitarists, and they also play banjo, mandolin, flute, Autoharp, harmonica, and tin whistle. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**Benny Golson: The Firefly Club.** Celebrated post-bop saxophonist who first emerged in the 50s as a member of Dizzy Gillespie's big band and Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers before founding the seminal modern jazz ensemble the Jazztet with trumpeter Art Farmer and then fledgling pianist McCoy Tyner. Known for his dark-hued lyricism, Golson has also composed several enduring jazz standards, including "Killer Joe," "Stablemates," "Whisper Not," and "Blues March." 8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$20 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

★**"The Mystery of Irma Vep":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"The Gondoliers":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

★**"The Santaland Diaries"** and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"She Loves Me":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Damnation Game":** Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

★**Jim Dailakis:** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Milonga Picante":** Michigan Argentine Tango Club. December 4 & 18. Tango dancing to recorded music. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Union after 9 p.m., but those who arrive before 9 p.m. may remain through the end of the evening. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 973-2338.

★**"Jesus Cake, Fat-Pants, and the Theory of Relativity":** Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater. See 1 Wednesday. 11 p.m.

★**"The X Show":** Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

★**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War" (Kang Je-Gyu, 2004). December 4-6 & 9. Grim war movie about an idealistic young soldier and his younger brother, who come to represent North and South Korea during the film, whose experiences in the Korean War reveal the deep flaws in human nature. Korean, subtitles. \$8.50 (children, students, veterans, & seniors, \$5.50). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. "The Machinist" (Brad Anderson, 2004). See 3 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "In the Heat of the Sun" (Jiang Wen, 1994). Coming-of-age

story, adapted from Wang Shou's novel *Wild Beasts*, about privileged teenagers set adrift in the Cultural Revolution in 70s Beijing. Ning Jing, Xia Yu, Kiu Xiaoning, Sun Jing, Zhang Wei, Mandarin, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764-6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m.

5 SUNDAY

***Falun Gong.** Every Sunday. Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. 9-11:15 a.m., Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 834-4978.

***Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** Every Sunday. All invited to sitting (9 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. If you feel a tad intimidated, don't fret—"We'll put you on the right page and tell you not to worry about it," notes an organizer. 9 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761-7495, 678-7549.

***Shorinji Kempo.** Every Sunday. This Japanese self-defense system combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. 9-11 a.m., Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2839 Boardwalk. Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly dues). 332-1780.

***Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** Every Sunday and December 14 & 28. Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. 9:30-11 a.m. (Sun.) & 7:30-9 p.m. (Dec. 14 & 28), Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477-5848.

***Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Games, craft activities, and latkes & doughnuts. Concludes with the traditional lighting of the menorah. Also, a Hanukkah bazaar featuring sale of dreidels, gelt, candles, toys, and decorations. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

***Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sunday. All invited to a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. 11 a.m., Burns Park, 1414 Wells. Free. 995-1621.

***Artisan Market.** December 5, 12, & 19. Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Today only: sale of kissing balls, roping, boughs, and other holiday greens. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 262-1004.

***First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Every Sunday. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles member Marge Van Meter discusses "Good People Don't Go to Heaven, Forgiveness People Do." Also this month: First Singles member Norm Samuelson introduces and leads a discussion on issues raised by Chris Hedges's *War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning* (December 12), and Vietnam veteran member Arnold Steiber discusses "Veterans for Peace" (December 19). On December 26, all invited to play Christmas Trivia, with prizes and refreshments. Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.

***Open House: Nature's Expressions.** Pre-Christmas show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a mammoth tusk over 3 feet long. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994-3048.

***22nd Annual Christmas Creche Display:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 3 Friday. Also today: a Christmas concert (3 p.m.). Program: the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, a vocal quartet, a flute quartet, a men's vocal ensemble, a string quartet, a vocal solo by Sally Mikat, and solos by cellist Nathan Jasinski and violinist Kirsten Lortz. Soprano Jennifer Larson concludes the program with Alfred Burt's "Some Children See Him." Also, an organ prelude by Paul Walker. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Holiday Open House: Darwin's Stained Glass. Show and sale of handmade stained-and-etched-glass gifts by local artists. Also, sale of works by local artists and of antique slot machines. Refreshments. Noon-5 p.m., Darwin's, 9080 Beeman, Chelsea. Free admission. 475-9730.

8th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Tour of 6 private homes and buildings ranging from 1 to 145 years old, all lavishly decorated for Christmas. Highlights of this year's tour include the EMU University House, a "critter

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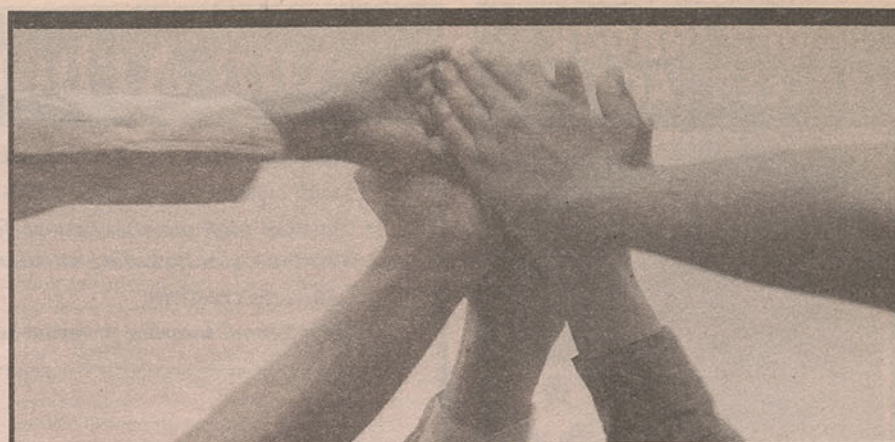
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Thank you for teaching me for the past little while. High school will be a snap because of what you have taught me. Even though I will only be here for this year, I am sure my learning skills will improve tremendously by the time I leave. All of you have helped me deal with my ADD better. I'm getting to know a lot of people and have made friends already. I am a big procrastinator, but while at the Ann Arbor Academy I have improved tremendously in that aspect. Thank you.

—Josh, 8th grade



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5 SUNDAY EVENTS continued

tree" covered with suet, a porch full of old sleds, a "tea tree" decorated with cups, and several renovation projects. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Noon-5:30 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$15 in advance in Ann Arbor at John Leidy Shop and in Ypsilanti at the Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau, Quinn's Essentials in Depot Town, Mantis Garden Supply, and Haab's Restaurant; \$20 day of tour at Cross Street Village senior housing. 487-9669.

★**Bridge:** Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 12:30-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**Michigan Marching Band:** U-M School of Music. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. 12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$8 (kids 11 & younger, \$3) in advance at Revelli Hall, 350 E. Hoover, and at the door. 763-4726.

★**16th Annual Children's Holiday Parade:** Main Street Area Association. Kids of all ages and their families (strollers welcome) are invited to don a costume if they like and join a downtown street parade starring Santa and Mrs. Claus in their reindeer-powered sleigh, who lead floats, city fire engines, public school buses, costumed animal characters, and area high school marching bands (kazoes provided to observers). Scout and Brownie troops and groups of any kind can march together with an identifying banner. The parade starts at the Federal Building and goes down Liberty to Fourth Avenue to Washington to Main and winds up at a petting farm (1-2 p.m.) set up in the Detroit Edison parking lot at William. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at Palio. Also, all invited to drop off their letters to Santa at the festive P.O. box in front of Generations. Noon (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112, ext. 32.

★**Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser.** Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 & older. Bring a dish to pass. 1-3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd., suite C. \$2. 764-2556.

★**Winter Democratic Rides:** Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 & 663-4498 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

★**2004 Lecture Series: Saguaro Nursery & Gardens.** Every Sunday through December 19. Talks by Saguaro staff and guest speakers. Today's topic: "Colorful Houseplants for Sunny Windows." Also this month: "How to Grow and Flower Jade Plants and Other Desert Plants" (December 12) and "Gifts for Gardeners" (December 19). 1-2 p.m., Saguaro, 470 W. Five Mile Rd., Whitmore Lake. Free. 449-4237.

★**"Timelines and Chronologies: Placing Your Ancestors in Historical Context":** Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by club member Susan Breevort. Followed by a talk by club members Barbara Snow and Connie Olson on "Census Records." 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483-2799.

★**"Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping":** Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids" Series). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its new musical about Peggy Parish's beloved literal-minded housecleaner, who goes on a camping trip with her employers. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12 (MTF members, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"A Visit to the River Raisin: Exploring the Leonard Preserve":** Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through this new WCPARC property to ID winter wildflowers, look for signs of wildlife, and note habitat changes. 2 p.m., meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester. Free. 971-6337.

★**Guild Day: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to meet local neopagans and sit in on meetings of their Magicians (2-3 p.m.), Healers (3-4 p.m.), and Warriors (4-5 p.m.) guilds. 2-5 p.m., 263 Larkspur (take Pontiac Trail north and turn left onto Skydale, left onto Cloverdale, and right onto Larkspur). Free. 998-1029.

★**Kids Open Mike: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 2-3 p.m., Oz's Music Envi-

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afrobeat



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

NoMo Afrobeat meets avant-garde

With seventeen members, NoMo may be the biggest band in town outside of the Ann Arbor Symphony. It's got a whole crowd of horns and winds, backed up by multiple keyboards, guitars, and a large percussion section with African drums at its center. If we're lucky, NoMo's concert at the Ark on Tuesday, December 14, will include Antoinette Kudoto, Ghana's only female master drummer, in that percussion section; she performs on the group's debut album, released in May on the Ypsilanti record label, but when I saw NoMo in October at Leopold Brothers, she wasn't there.

The group brings together disparate talents into a cohesive new whole, which is the name of the game in popular music innovation. Here, jazz players who've passed through the increasingly influential U-M jazz program meet independent rock 'n' rollers and world musicians. NoMo is sometimes classed as an Afrobeat band, but what you hear first is not percussion rhythm but the impressive horn section, playing in a free unison at the start but making room for increasingly adventurous solos as a ten-minute piece unfolds. Think of what would happen if Tower of Power (or even Chicago) took on John Coltrane and Pharoah Sanders as members and then did a three-year residency in Lagos, and you've got an idea of what NoMo sounds like. Most of the music is instrumental, but one NoMo number, "Moving in Cir-

cles," is a natural extension of the sort of soul song of the 1970s that had political lyrics but could also really bring people out onto the dance floor.

And indeed you can dance to this band—the sort of dancing where people gather in front of the stage and face the band in order to pay attention to what the members are doing, but it gets pretty energetic all the same. The African drumming really makes you want to move. The avant-garde always had a little problem making music people could dance to, and it's hard to blame folks for retreating eventually into the discos.

NoMo has grown and become more ambitious since its origin two years ago as a one-night experiment, and the appearance at the Ark marks a new stage in its development. The club is clearing away the tables and chairs in front of the stage to create a dance floor, but the ambience will still be different from that at clubs where the band has appeared in the past. Its music can cut through the surrounding roar of beer orders and shouted conversations if need be, but an Ark performance will highlight the details of founder Elliot Bergman's saxophone improvisations and will let people hear the harp that provides a charmed background texture to NoMo's music and sometimes emerges into the open with solos that evoke Malian kora music. NoMo is something new in the music of southeastern Michigan—a band that has taken the interest that young people are once again showing in African music and done something really innovative with it.

—James M. Manheim

ronment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. Reservations required. 662-8283.

★**"Kerry Tales: Light a Candle with Mother Goose":** Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769-3115.

★**"American Music":** U-M School of Music. Recital by students of U-M American music history professor Mark Clague. 2 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Bait Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

126th Annual "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 4 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Big Friendly Giant":** EMU Theater of the Young. See 2 Thursday. 2 & 4 p.m.

★**"The Gondoliers":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Santaland Diaries"** and **"Season's Greetings":** Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Mystery of Irma Vep":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"She Loves Me":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers.** Every Sunday & occasional Saturdays. The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer & pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. 3 p.m., location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at a2h3.org.

★**Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County.** All invited to join an informal group discussion of astrology, astrological resources, natal charts, and more. 3-6:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom community room, 114 S. Main. \$5 (first-timers, free; pay for your own snack). 995-4483.

★**"Drop-In Gamelan Session":** U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. December 5 & 12. A chance for newbies to try out the U-M gamelan, an assemblage of 50 bronze gongs, flutes, metallophones, drums, strings, and a xylophone that produces the classical music of Indonesia, whose intricate cycles mesmerize with a sweet, dreamy, chiming clangor. Led by world-renowned Indonesian dancer and gamelan expert Wasi Bantolo. 3-4:30 p.m., U-M

Music School Gamelan Room, 100 Bait Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-4568.

★**"Art of the Lega: Metaphor and Meaning in Central Africa":** U-M Museum of Art First Thursday Performance Series. Talk by Elizabeth Cameron, a University of California art history professor who curated the current UMMA exhibit *Art of the Lega: Meaning and Metaphor in Central Africa* (see Galleries). 3 & 4 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

★**Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** This popular holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts—last year's highlight was a giant pile of breathtakingly beautiful, vivid, and intricate large *cuadros*, or cloth applique scenes. Also, jewelry and jewelry boxes, musical instruments, clothing, purses, scarves, pillows, and holiday decorations from Third World countries. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3-7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663-1870.

★**"Variations on the Subject of Sin: From Money to Infidelity to Murder":** Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir performs a variety of Broadway songs by Jewish composers about an assortment of sins. The material ranges from "Sportin' Life" from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* to songs from *Fiorello*, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1959 Broadway musical about political graft. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 donation. 971-0990.

★**Chamber Ensembles:** U-M School of Music. U-M music student ensembles perform programs TBA. 3 & 5:30 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Bait Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

★**16th Annual Hometown Holiday:** Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 3 Friday. Today: The Chelsea Chamber Players (3 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St.) perform Ravel's Quartet in F and Rossini's Sonata for Strings and Duo for Cello and Bass. The festival concludes with a **Holiday Festival of Carols** (7 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle St.). 3 & 7 p.m.

★**"Nutcracker: 36th Annual Holiday Dance":** Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 4 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**26th Annual Boar's Head Festival:** Concordia University. See 3 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** Every Sunday except December 26. All invited to try an outdoor session of this boisterous, jingly, ancient English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Gretchen's House Learning Center, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 747-8138.

★**Good News Christian a Cappella.** This U-M a cappella group sings contemporary Christian pop and other Christian songs. 7-9 p.m., Modern Languages Building auditorium 3. Free. (646) 321-6613.

★**Over the Rhine: The Ark.** Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. Opening act is **Griffin House**, a Nashville-based roots-oriented folk-rock singer-songwriter who has released a highly regarded CD, *Lost and Found*. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$16.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"The Archaeology of the Dead Sea Scrolls":** Beth Israel Congregation. Talk by Bar Ilan Israel studies professor Hanan Eshel. 7:45 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 769-5680.

★**Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers.** Every Sunday except December 26. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, chachas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 5) & Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 12 & 19). \$2. 763-6984.

★**EMU Women's Chorus:** EMU Music Department. Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. 8 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**"Get Up Stand Up":** Improv Inferno. Every Sunday. Open mike for up-and-coming local stand-up comics. 8:30 p.m., Improv Inferno, 309 S. Main. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214-7080.

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5 SUNDAY EVENTS *continued*

FILMS

MTF. "The Machinist" (Brad Anderson, 2004). See 3 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War" (Kang Je-Gyu, 2004). See 4 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

6 MONDAY

Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Every Monday. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perampl directs. 10-11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. \$5 per week (applicable toward \$60 semester membership dues) for nonmembers. 213-3770, 663-5907.

***Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** Every Monday. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, Bible study and chair exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch (\$1) and socializing. 10 a.m.-noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668-8353.

***Mah-Jongg and Other Games: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Every Monday. All seniors invited to play mah-jongg, chess, and pool. 10 a.m.-noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

***22nd Annual Christmas Creche Display:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 3 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

***Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Monday. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Fitness Fun" (\$3), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. The weekly program also includes meetings of the Writing Group (1-3 p.m.). Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

***Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Every Monday through December 13. Talks by various U-M and visiting scholars. Bring a bag lunch. Today: U-M creative writing professor Lorna Goodison, an award-winning poet from Jamaica, reads from and discusses her new collection, *To Us, All Flowers Are Roses*. Also this month: U-M Asian language and cultures professor Donald Lopez discusses "The Life and Times of a Modernist Tibetan Monk" (December 13). Noon, Osterman Common Room, 0520 Rackham. Free. 936-3518.

***"Judo, Jujitsu, & Self-Defense": A.C.E. Academy of Martial Arts.** Every Monday. Local sensei Dan Powers offers a fun, easy introduction to these martial arts and self-defense skills. Wear a gi (simple white robe) or loose-fitting or gym clothes. 4 p.m. (kids) & 6 p.m. (adults), A.C.E. Academy of Martial Arts, 749 Airport Blvd., suite 3. Free. 645-7069.

***"My Butch Career: A Pervert in Academia":** U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Talk by U-M women's studies professor Esther Newton. 4-6 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 615-6387.

***"A New Aramaic Wisdom Text Found in Marsha (Marisa)":** U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Talk by Bar-Ilan University Israel studies professor Esther Eshel. 4 p.m., 3050 Frieze, 105 S. State. Free. 764-0350.

***"Pills, Profits, Sex, and Science: The Erosion of Academic Freedom in the Corporate Age":** U-M Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Lecture by social psychologist Carol Travis, a *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Times* columnist. Followed by refreshments. 4 p.m., 1210 Chemistry, 930 North University. Free. 764-5468.

***"Health, Environment, and Justice: The Network Fetish":** U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society Program. Talk by U-M epidemiology professor Nicholas King. 4-5:30 p.m., 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 615-8482.

***"Listen, Look, Listen":** U-M School of Art and Design. End-of-term screening of video and sound art created by U-M students for 2 video and sound classes. 5 p.m., Video and Performance Studio, Duderstadt Center (formerly Media Union), North Campus. Free. 764-0397.

***Open Board Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Monday. All invited to play any of the board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m.-midnight, Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. UNLV. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

***Huron Valley Toastmasters.** Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the cafeteria. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7-9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: \$48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 663-1836.

***The Buyer's Agent.** December 6 & 13. Real estate professionals lead discussions on first-time home buying. Today: "The 5 Most Dangerous Trends Facing Home Buyers Today." Also this month: "All about Mortgages for First-Time Buyers" (December 13). 7-8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free. Preregistration required. 662-6240.

***Brenda Flanagan: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Davidson College (North Carolina) English professor, a 3-time Hopwood Award winner as a U-M student, is known for her folksy, lilted, lyrical poetry and fiction. She reads from *In the Heart of Island Woman* and *Other Cries*, her new collection of short stories exploring the tensions and contradictions in the lives of African women from her native Trinidad. Topics range from the occasional disruption of a rich communal life by wars between women over their often unemployed men to the struggles of immigrant women trying to make sense of their lives as domestic servants in the U.S. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

Dream Group. Every Monday (tentative dates). All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662-5925.

***Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corinne Hillebrandt. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 769-1616.

***Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** Every Monday. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 973-6084.

***EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

***Choir Concert: U-M School of Music.** Performances by these 2 U-M music-student ensembles. The Orpheus Singers perform works by Mozart and Bach, and the University Choir performs a program TBA. 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 763-4726.

***Faculty Recital: U-M Residential College.** A trio of RC music faculty—cellist Katri Ervamaa, percussionist Michael Gould, and trumpeter and electronic musician Mark Kirschenmann—perform originals and contemporary works TBA. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 276-4906.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Monday. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

FILMS

MTF. "The Machinist" (Brad Anderson, 2004). See 3 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War" (Kang Je-Gyu, 2004). See 4 Saturday. Mich., times TBA.

7 TUESDAY

11th Annual Conger Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by over 30 area artisans, including baskets, jewelry, textiles, silk floral arrangements, and more. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Holiday Home Tour" today (see below). 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. \$5 admission. 433-9698.

***Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Tuesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

Holiday Home Tour: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of 4 area homes, all within a short drive of one another, spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). 10 a.m.-8 p.m., various locations (see congerhometour.org).



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***Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tuesday. All seniors invited to participate in the social discussion group "Let's Talk About," play mah-jongg (noon-2 p.m.), and/or join the ABC Quilters (1-3 p.m.) to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

***"Today's Forum": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Tuesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to discuss an important regional, national, or international issue. The discussions are based on a recent essay or article, which is chosen in advance by members of the group and made available at the Senior Center. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

***"The LGBT Press: Is It Useful?": U-M Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs Men's Discussion Lunch.** All invited to join a group discussion. Bring a lunch. Noon-1:30 p.m., IGR conference room, 3000 Michigan Union. Free. 763-4186.

***"The 'Zhuangzi' and Music": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** U-M Asian languages & literatures professor Shuen-fu Lin discusses the relationship between ancient Chinese musical theory and practice and a canonical early Daoist text. Followed by comments from U-M ethnomusicology professor Joseph Lam. Bring a bag lunch. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

***"Surface Currents in the Great Lakes: What Have We Learned since Mark Harrington's Survey in 1894?": U-M Detroit Observatory.** Talk by local National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration researcher David Schwab. 3 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. 763-2230.

***Chess & Scrabble Night: Ann Arbor Parks Department.** Every Tuesday. All invited to play chess or Scrabble. 4-5 p.m., Northside Community Center, 809 Taylor. Free. 994-2985.

***Volkan Orhon: U-M School of Music.** This University of Iowa double bass professor performs Brahms's Cello Sonata in E Minor and Obrecht's Suite for Double Bass. 5 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0583.

***Marvel Trading Card Game: The Underworld.** Every Tuesday. All invited to play this superhero fantasy card game. 6 p.m., Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. High Point. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team This Ann Arbor-based program features 46 of the best 16- and

17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September-March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18-21), American college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today's match, the only home game this month, features Team USA Under-17 vs. Toledo of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$12 (students & children, \$6). 327-9251.

***"A Gathering of Peace": The Free Daist Communion.** Every Tuesday. Prayer vigil for peace featuring the teachings of Adi Da, Western-born guru Heart Master (formerly known as Da Free John). All invited. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 741-0432.

***Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss Esmeralda Arana's *The Path: A Practical Path to Sorcery*. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Every Tuesday. Historical and traditional English dances. Today: callers Arlene Kindel, Marty Wilson, and Jessi Bell with music by pianist David West and fiddler Donna Baird. Also this month: caller Alisa Dodson with music by pianist Betsy McCabe, concertinist Nawal Motawi, and guitarist Glenn Dong (December 14), and Ray Bantle, Shirley Debbie Jackson, fiddler Paul Winder, and Carol Jacobs on an instrument TBA (December 21). Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north off Plymouth Rd.). \$6. 422-1170.

***"The Saffron and the Green: Religion in Southeast Asia": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Talk by EMU religion professor James Egge. 7-9 p.m., 2069 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by a featured poet TBA. Also, open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. 7-10 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. \$5. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

***Matthew Thorburn: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** See review, p. 75. This young poet, a Hopwood-winning U-M grad who is currently a New School (New York City) grad student, reads from his debut collection, *Subject to Change*, winner of the New Issues Poetry Prize. "Exuberant and crystalline, these poems articulate the problematic beauty of our grand mix-up, our new and comic Dark Ages," says the acclaimed poet Angela Ball. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

***Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** Every Tuesday. All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perampall directs. 7-9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free (\$80 per semester membership dues). 213-3770.

***Sweet Adelines County Connection.** Every Tuesday. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 30-member barbershop harmony chorus. 7-10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$18 monthly dues for those who join). 995-4110.

***Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Keith Opal at 741-1506.

***Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass (\$5 per day) required. 663-9740.

***"Teens Using Drugs: What to Know and What to Do": Dawn Farm.** December 7 & 14. 2-part talk by local social worker Ron Harrison. Today: "What to Know." Also this month: "What to Do" (December 14). Refreshments, literature. 7:30-9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 773-7892.

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Wed., January 26, 7 p.m.
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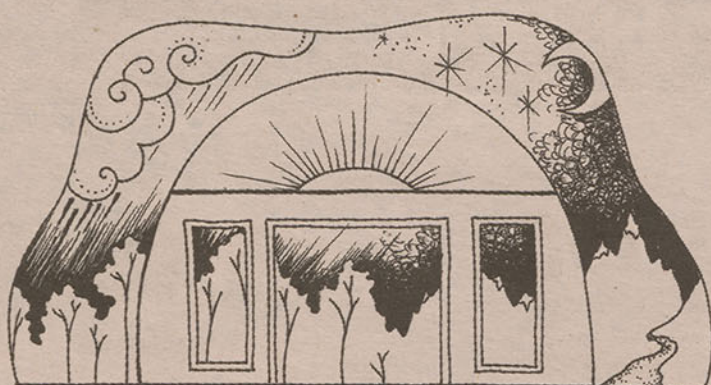
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7 TUESDAY EVENTS continued

ca. Informal monthly talk on our relationship to the cosmos as described by Rudolf Steiner. Today, U-M chemistry professor emerita Seyhan Ege discusses "The Gene as Metaphor." 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. Wheelchair-accessible. 485-3764.

★"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Tuesday. Talk by Gehlek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Gehlek's longtime student Aura Glaser or a visiting speaker. 7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations are accepted. 994-3387.

★Ann Arbor Camera Club. December 7 & 21. Speakers and topics TBA. Also, club members show their recent slides (December 7) and prints (December 21). 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$10 annual dues for those who join). 449-4974.

★Spanish Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *El Siglo del Viento* (The Century of the Wind), Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano's epic alternative history of the Americas. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6475.

Our Own Thing Chorale. Willis Patterson leads this polished local gospel chorale in a varied concert highlighted by Mitchell Southall's "In Silent Night," a delicate, hauntingly beautiful song that, an organizer says, "we wait all year to sing." Also, the 200-year-old spiritual "Oh, Po' Little Jesus," Jacqueline Hairston's "Nowhere to Lay His Head," Undine Moore's "I Believe This Is Jesus," and others. 7:30 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Donation. 476-7038.

★Student Plays: Greenhills School. Ben Cohen directs Greenhills students in staged readings of student-written short plays and scenes. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

★German Speakers' Round Table. Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Co., 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665-2931.

★Ed Eberle: EMU Art Department. Talk by this noted Pittsburgh ceramist whose thrown and altered pots covered with stylized nude figures painted in a soupy clay known as "slip" recall classic Greek vase painting. 8 p.m., Halle Library auditorium (lower level), Oakwood off Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-1213.

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. Dress code observed. 8-10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$17 in advance only. (517) 787-6367, (517) 592-5771.

★"Flaming Menorah Party": U-M Hillel. All invited to celebrate Hanukkah with jelly doughnuts, a game of dreidel, and other fun activities. 8 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill. Free. 769-0500.

★EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department. Kevin Miller directs EMU music faculty and students in a program of 17th- and 18th-century choral and instrumental music. 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Washtenaw at Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★University Choir: U-M School of Music. Christopher Kiver leads this music-student ensemble in Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity" and works by Mendelssohn. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

Charlie Robison: The Ark. Pungent, well-crafted, edgily humorous original songs rooted in the working-class moods and mores of west Texas dance halls and roadhouses by this fast-rising young singer-songwriter from Bandera, Texas. A favorite of alt-country fans, Robison's music is also being trumpeted for its potential appeal to mainstream country audiences. "Think John Prine meets Elvis Costello in an Austin honky-tonk," says veteran country music critic Chet Flippo. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar. Every Tuesday. All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. 10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222-9999.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above.

Every Tuesday. Short sets by a variety of area and regional stand-up comics. If you'd like to perform, contact emcee Brian Cook at Bcook@umich.edu at least 5 days in advance. 10 p.m.-midnight, Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 215 N. Main. \$5 at the door only. 663-5578.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classic Series. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" (Elia Kazan, 1945). Warm, tender coming-of-age tale about a scrappy girl from a poor yet proud Brooklyn tenement family who aspires to a better life. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "The Machinist" (Brad Anderson, 2004). See 3 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

8 WEDNESDAY

★"Morning Sun": U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Filmmaker Carma Hinton, a Beijing native who lived in China until she was 21, introduces a screening of her documentary about the Chinese Cultural Revolution, 1964-1976. The story is presented through interviews with a variety of people who, like her, came of age in China in the 60s. Reception follows. 4 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall. Free. 764-6308.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. EMU. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

★Ann Arbor Magic Club. All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. 7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 482-9253.

★"Palestine Is Still the Issue": Ann Arbor Middle East Film Society. Screening of award-winning journalist and filmmaker John Pilger's 2002 documentary about conditions in the occupied territories of Palestine. Followed by a Q&A. 7-8:45 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 668-1358.

★"Potluck and Plant Adventure": Wild Ones. All invited to join a group discussion of native plant landscaping projects. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own table service). Also, the annual awarding of the club's Deep Roots award. 7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 622-9997.

"Latke Vegas Casino Night": U-M Hillel. All invited to play such casino games as blackjack and poker. Also, candle and dreidel making, and live music TBA. Food available. Raffle. All proceeds benefit a charity TBA. 7-10 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill. \$3 minimum donation requested. 769-0500.

★"Everyday Strategies for Real Weight Loss": Whole Foods Market. Local chef Brian Steinberg, who lost and kept off 100 pounds, discusses tips for reaching weight goals. 7-8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw Ave. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★"The ARRL Field Organization": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club. Rescheduled from November. Talk by club member Dan Romanchik. Preceded by "ragchewing and socializing." 7 p.m., T1126 Technical and Industrial Building, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors (\$20 annual dues). 930-6564.

"Vagabond Tales": Saline Area Schools. The Calgary-based troupe Barrage performs a varied program of fiery folk, country, jazz, classical, disco, and swing to accompany a narrative about a time-traveling vagabond who samples the music of different places and eras. The musicians perform energetic dancing while playing. Opening act is Saline Fiddlers ReStrung, a 19-member ensemble of high school fiddlers that performs American folk, bluegrass, and Celtic music. 7 p.m., Saline High School auditorium, 1300 Campus Dr., Saline. Tickets \$25 (students & seniors, \$15) available in advance or at the door. 944-6885.

★Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of U-M creative writing visiting professor Nancy Reisman's debut novel, *The First Desire*, the story of the intimate dynamics of a Jewish family living in Buffalo from the late 20s into the 50s. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School. Marijean Quigley-Young leads the Philharmonia, the Chamber Ensemble, and the Symphony in programs TBA. 7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Free. 994-2120.

"Concert for a Cause": Northside Community Church. Soprano Elizabeth Major and baritone Chris Grapentine, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra cellist Sarah Cleveland, and pianist Kathryn Goodson perform art songs and chamber music by Brahms, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Wolf, Faure, and Ives. Proceeds benefit a local charity TBA. 7:30 p.m., North-

9 THURSDAY

★**"The First Lessons: What Needs to Be Learned and How to Take It Home":** Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. All invited to join this group discussion. 10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 996-1344.

★**"Gendered Negotiations: Marital Decision-Making about a 'Labor of Love'":** U-M Center for the Education of Women. Talk by CEW visiting scholar Marlena Studer. Noon-1:30 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty St. Free. 998-7080.

★**"Stars Onstage: A Benefit Concert for Children":** Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts Department. Performances by dance students from WCC and the Spotlight Studio LLC in Pinckney, interspersed with jazz performances by the WCC Jazz Orchestra. Proceeds benefit the children in U-M Mott Hospital. 6 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Donation or a new, unwrapped gift. 677-5090.

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-9724.

★**Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club.** Bring a dish to pass and a beverage for the potluck; table service provided. Participants are also asked to bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight. Proceeds benefit avian education and research. Bring your bird. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662-4582.

★**"Nourishing Your Body with Herbs to Reduce Holiday Stress":** Whole Foods Market. Talk by local herbalist and health coach Bronwen Gates. 7-9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★**"Saving America from Its Middle East Quagmire":** U-M Residential College. Talk by U-M history professor Juan Cole, a nationally recognized expert on the Middle East. 7 p.m., 126 East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★**"Seasonal Beers":** Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group:** Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of *Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books*, Aaron Lansky's hilarious and moving memoir about his adventures as the founder of the National Yiddish Book Center. Refreshments. 7-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669-0451.

★**Mark Yakich: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This highly regarded young poet reads from his recently published first book, *Unrelated Individuals Forming a Group Waiting to Cross*, a collection of daringly inventive poems, at once plainspoken and riddling, exploring the incessant ebb and flow of individual identities. "In the unabashedly unwieldy title and in each poem, there are no borders drawn between the commonplace and the metaphysical. There are journeys, crossings, and departures—all evocative of the loneliness, alienation, and desire for identity with another person or place," says National Endowment of the Arts fellow James Galvin. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

Groove. Dynamic percussion and dance show by this vibrant new U-M student group that uses everything from whisk brooms to trash cans to create a rousing, slam-bang spectacle similar to Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas's Off Broadway dance-percussion hit show *Stomp*. 7:30 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. \$3 at the door only. 763-1107.

★**"Trek to Everest Base Camp":** Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal presents a multimedia slide show about traveling in Nepal and trekking to the Mount Everest base camp. 8 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369-3107.

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** December 9 & 16. Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, branles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. 8-11 p.m., Michigan League room D. Free. 971-1809.

★**Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Lab Ensemble, Latin Jazz Ensemble:** U-M School of Music. These music-student groups in turn perform works by Moises Paiewonsky, John Clayton, Fred Sturm, and U-M jazz students. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

Non-Zero: Kerrytown Concert House. The duo of U-M saxophone grad student Brian Sacawa and Yale



Kent "Cannonball" Eshelman performs at the Holiday Ragtime Bash at First Unitarian Dec. 12.

side Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Donation. 662-6351.

★**B. B. King: Michigan Theater Foundation Legends of Rock 'n' Roll/Clear Channel Entertainment.** This legendary bluesman's career spans half a century, from his beginnings as a Memphis DJ and his 1951 R&B hit "Three O'Clock Blues" to his induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. He's a compelling, prolific lyricist and composer, a spine-tingling, deep-souled vocalist, and perhaps the most inventive and resourceful blues guitarist ever. Like the late Louis Armstrong, he enjoys an appeal that transcends musical categories—but to most Americans, indeed to most people around the world, he is the blues. Preceded at 5 p.m. by a VIP Dinner (\$175) featuring a Memphis barbecue catered by Smokehouse Blues. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$48.50-\$79.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

★**Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Steven Davis leads this music-student ensemble in works by Piston, Brahms, Schoenberg, Dukas, Jacob, Penman, and Boccalari. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

★**Kris Delmhurst: The Ark.** Up-and-coming Boston-based pop-folk singer-songwriter known for her warm and inviting vocals and her complex, emotionally edgy lyrics. She accompanies herself on guitar, cello, and piano. "Kris Delmhurst's voice is just country enough for traditional country fans, pop enough for the current state of country music, folksy, poignant, and just about anything else you'd associate with a top-notch vocalist, which she absolutely is," says Carey Driscoll in her *Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange* review of Delmhurst's 2003 CD *Songs for a Hurricane*. Opening act is Mark Erelli, an acclaimed Boston-based singer-songwriter known for his strong melodic sense. His latest CD, *Memorial Hall Recordings*, is an exploration of the distinctive flavors of New England music, with material ranging from the traditional "Blue-Eyed Boston Boy" and a setting of John Greenleaf Whittier's "Ichabod" to fellow New Englander Bill Morrissey's "Summer Night" and several originals. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"The Mystery of Irma Vep":** Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm Night":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS
MTF. **"The Machinist"** (Brad Anderson, 2004). See 3 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Chinese Studies. **"Morning Sun"** (Carma Hinton, 1994). See Events listing above. Rackham Assembly Hall, 4 p.m.

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\$40 (Rib) buys a certificate. \$75 (Femur) also includes a party invitation. \$100 (Humerus) also includes a t-shirt. \$250 (Pelvis) also includes a color print. \$500 (Tusk) also includes a name on the permanent donor plaque. \$1000 (Skull) also includes 10 additional party invitations. Certificate will be sent to you. Tax deductible, minus fair-market value. Mail form or facsimile to address below. For more info, contact Robin at robin@umich.edu or call (734) 936-5834.

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9 THURSDAY EVENTS continued

percussion grad student Timothy Feeney performs avant jazz that combines composed and improvised live music with prerecorded electronic music. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Jane Siberry: The Ark. Canadian art-rock singer-songwriter whose richly textured, adventurously multilayered, highly conceptual, and ethereally lyrical original songs have provoked comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Laurie Anderson. Her show tonight features songs from throughout her career, along with a smattering of pieces from her 2003 CD *Shushan the Palace* (Hymns of Earth), a collection of characteristically free-spirited interpretations of classical Christmas vocal music. Opening act is Adrienne Pierce, a young singer-songwriter who has drawn comparisons to Mazzy Star and Rickie Lee Jones for her ethereal and haunting vocal style. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Bill Heid Trio: The Firefly Club. A veteran pianist who splits his time between Detroit, L.A., and Japan, Heid plays an entertaining mix of jazz styles, from bebop and Latin-flavored tunes to spirited blues. 8 p.m.-midnight, Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$8 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

"Storytelling for a New World": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. December 9 & 10, U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg., Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only. 763-5460, 763-5461.

"The Rover": U-M Theater Department. December 9-12, Malcolm Tulip directs U-M theater students in Royal Shakespeare Company cofounder John Barton's adaptation of this Restoration comedy of sexual intrigue by Aphra Behn, the first English professional female playwright, whose work was only recently rediscovered. *The Rover*, set in a 17th-century Spanish Caribbean colony, concerns 3 sisters gathered together on the eve of Carnival. One is destined for an arranged marriage, another for the convent, and all 3 are looking to escape the authority of their father and brother. They encounter 3 exiled English cavaliers, and entranced by their charm and good looks, the girls don masks and join the men in their licentious activities. "It's surprisingly modern for an old play," says director Tulip, "especially in its examination of the role of women, which is striking for its depth. And it does it with comedy, which is always a plus." 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$15 & \$20 (students, \$8) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday, 8 p.m.

Elvira Kurt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 9-11. Named Funniest Female Comic at the Canadian Comedy Awards, this monologist draws much of the material for her hilarious railings from her experiences growing up as the only child of Hungarian immigrants. She is also the voice of Reality Chick in the Oxygen Network's animated comedy about a pregnant superhero. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

Jordan Knight: The Blind Pig. Urban soul ballads and slickly stylized dance-pop by a band led by this former lead singer of the late-80s boy band New Kids on the Block. Opening act is JagStar, a Knoxville, Tennessee, pop band. 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, \$25 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call 996-8555.

"Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer": Pangea Project Improv Troupe. December 9-11 & 16-18. Isaac Ellis directs this local ensemble in a hilarious series of improvised skits exploring the "joys" of the season and the reasons they make us so crazy. Cast: Laurel Hufano, Gary Lehman, Ahmed Muslimani, Jim Posante, Kate Orr, Aral Basil Gribble II, and director Ellis. 11 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$10 in advance at performancenetwork.org &

by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

FILMS

MTE: "The Machinist" (Brad Anderson, 2004). See 3 Friday, Mich., times TBA. **"Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War"** (Kang Je-Gyu, 2004). See 4 Saturday, Mich., times TBA.

10 FRIDAY

"Femme Is Gender Queer": U-M Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs. Talk by a speaker TBA. Noon-1:30 p.m., 3909 Michigan Union. Free. 763-4186.

"Asian Theater Workshop: An Interactive Demonstration of Japanese Butoh and Javanese Dance": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Japanese butoh artist Jun Wakabayashi and Javanese master dancer Pamardi Tjiptopradonggo, both U-M Asian languages and cultures visiting artists, discuss their collaborative dance work in progress, which combines elements of Japanese butoh dance and modern Javanese dance. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center. All invited for readings and discussion of Yiddish literature selections TBA. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. 1:30-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

Afro-Cuban Concert: U-M Residential College. U-M music professor Michael Gould directs RC Afro-Cuban drumming students. 4 p.m., Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

Tot Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Candle lighting, songs, stories, and a craft activity, followed by a vegetarian potluck. Geared toward families with toddlers up to age 5, but all welcome. 6 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

Holiday Party: Pittsfield Union Grange. Potluck party (bring a dish), carol singing, and a grab-bag for adults (bring a wrapped gift under \$5). Parents can bring a wrapped present for their own child to open. 6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free admission. 769-1052.

Coffee Hour: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to chat with local neopagans. 7-9 p.m., Arborland Borders. Free. 998-1029.

Poetry Night in Ann Arbor IV: Neutral Zone. Poetry readings by 1998 National Poetry Slam Champion Regie Gibson, Sarah Lawrence College creative writing professor and noted poet Jeff McDaniel, Pioneer High School alum Erica Rosbe, and teen poets from the Ann Arbor Wordworks and the VOLUME Poetry Project. 7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$8 (students, \$4) in advance; \$10 (students, \$5) at the door. 223-7443.

"Exploring Gender": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M Residential College students perform excerpts from a variety of contemporary plays and performance pieces exploring gender issues. 7:30 p.m., Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Bowling Green. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$12-\$17. 764-0247.

Older Lesbians Organizing. December 10 & 18. All lesbians invited to join a discussion tonight of next year's club events. Also this month: a movie night and potluck (December 18, location TBA). 7:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun. Free. 482-2996.

Holiday Concert: Saline Varsity Blues. December 10 & 11. This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7-18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small group vocal performances and skits. 7:30 p.m., Saline High School auditorium, 1300 Campus Drive, Saline. Tickets \$6 at the door only. 429-2103.

"Christmas Ring and Sing": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Peramle directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of Christmas music. Piano accompanist is Nancy Le Grand. Also, performances by the chorus's sextet, Chamber Maids, and handbell choir, the Joyous Ringers. 7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 213-3770.

"The Tempest": Young Actors Guild. December 10-12. Sue Roe directs local young actors in Shakespeare's culminating work, a visionary romance set on a magical island ruled by the enigmatic but benevolent sorcerer Prospero and his beautiful daughter Miranda. Prospero is in fact the exiled duke of Milan, who conjures a storm that shipwrecks his old enemies upon his island. *The Tempest* is filled with verse and song (including the famous "Full fathom five") and contains some of Shakespeare's most gorgeously haunting poetry. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn The-

classical music



GRIFFIN LINDSAY

Vocal Arts Ensemble A cappella angels sing the music of the spheres

Only in later iconography are angels depicted with harps. Earlier, they are shown singing before the throne of God. While some might reasonably doubt the literal veracity of the earlier representations, the implication that a cappella choral music is the music of heaven is just about right. There is nothing more fully musical and more fully human than the voice singing—and nothing

more deeply soulful and more profoundly spiritual than voices singing together.

And there is no better way to celebrate the coming of the light than voices singing together. Whether one partakes of the Boychoir of Ann Arbor's luminous hymns in St. Andrew's, or Vox Early Music Ensemble's numinous counterpoint in St. Thomas, or the Choral Union's massive *Messiah* in Hill Auditorium, choral music in the cold of winter is the best way of bringing the radiant warmth of the music of the spheres into one's heart.

For a choral holiday concert that combines the luminous and the numinous with passion and precision, the a cappella Vocal Arts Ensemble's performance on Saturday, December 18, at St. Andrew's cannot be beat. This year they will be performing Franck Martin's Mass, Francis Poulenc's *Christmas Motets*, and a select assortment of noels, carols, and glees. As they have in past years, the Vocal Arts Ensemble will be performing under music director Ben Cohen, a skilled conductor, a superb musician, and an absolute asset to the Ann Arbor musical community.

The ensemble has not essayed the main music on the program in the past, but on the evidence of their previous performances I expect them to transform the chancel of St. Andrew's into the stage celestial. Certainly, the music is celestial. Martin's Mass sets the Ordinary of the Roman liturgy to music at once severe and sublime, full of modal melodies and ecstatic harmonies and the pure, clear sound of souls singing. The Poulenc motets are suave, sophisticated, and very sexy. And although the select assortment of noels, carols, and glees might not be everyone's cup of spiritual tea, the Vocal Arts Ensemble's incandescent sonorities will no doubt sweeten the spiritual pot.

—James Leonard

ater. Tickets \$10 (11 & under, \$8) in advance and at the door. 913-9800.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. December 10-12. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story, about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 10), 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 11), and 2 p.m. (Dec. 12). Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. Tickets \$15 (\$8, seniors & students) available in advance by phone & at the Glass Slipper in Chelsea and at the door. 475-3070.

***Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's 4th play, *The Soul's Awakening*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East (1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662-6398.

***Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock leads this music-student group in works by Pann, Britten, Rands, Strauss, and Copland. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

Bill Charlap: Kerrytown Concert House. See review, p. 83. This New York jazz pianist known for his hard-swinging, rigorous yet romantic style was born in 1966 to Broadway composer Moose Charlap and singer Sandy Stewart and began playing piano at age 3. Growing up in a home often visited by Yip Harburg and other great composers and lyricists of the American songbook, he preferred traditional bop classicism to the new music being created by his contemporaries. "In almost every number, regardless of its speed, [Charlap] leaves us a phrase, a group of irregular notes, an ardent bridge that shakes us," says *New Yorker* critic Whitney Balliett in his review of the CD *Somewhere*. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15, \$20, & \$30. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Joel Mabus: The Ark. This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folkabilly" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader*. His

1997 CD *Western Passage* is an all-instrumental suite for solo guitar that blends 19th-century American folk melodies with original tunes. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Winter Wonderland": Dance Gallery Studio. Variety-show festival with performances by Dance Gallery members and students, including Peter Sparling's vibrant *Winter*, set to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Also, jazz dance by teen dancers led by Luna Loferer, and students and company members perform original choreography by Katie Contessa and Leslie Williams, based on the traditional Cinderella story. The evening includes readings by local poets TBA, a solo performance by the inventively offbeat avant-folk composer-musician Frank Pahl, and a performance by local dancer Heather Vaughan-Southard to a piano score by U-M dance professor Christian Matijas. 8 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Tickets \$10 in advance at Dance Gallery and at the door. 747-8885.

"Storytelling for a New World": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. See 9 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

"The Rover": U-M Theater Department. See 9 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday, 8 & 10 p.m.

Elvira Kurt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 9 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer": Pangea Project Improv Troupe. See 9 Thursday, 11 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday, Mid-night.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Primer" (Shane Carruth, 2004). December 10-16. Low-

budget sci fi thriller about 2 maverick engineers who invent a working time-travel machine. Sundance award-winner. \$8.50 (children, students, veterans, & seniors, \$5.50). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

11 SATURDAY

***Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. 9 a.m.-noon, meeting location TBA. Free. 998-9541.

"11th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. Amble through a bazaar of hundreds of peanut blossoms, chocolate spritzes, cinnamon stars, almond crescents, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, spice treats, and lots more. Select your own or prepackaged sets. Proceeds benefit mission work. 9 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 213-2330.

Huron Gun Collectors. December 11 & 12. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (810) 227-1637.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 11 & 12. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663-0362.

***Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** December 11 & 14. Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. 10 a.m.-noon (Dec. 11) & 3-5 p.m. (Dec. 14), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994-2807.

Arts and Crafts Show: Clonlara School. Show and sale of arts and crafts from 30 vendors. Live rock and blues by the local trio Resonance. Children's activities. Refreshments available. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett (off Stadium between Packard & Industrial). Free admission. 302-1077.

***Movement Learning Lesson and Martial Art Demonstration: Movement Learning Systems.** Local martial arts instructor Jesse Nichols demonstrates the martial arts of aikibukido and shoshinkan aikido and leads a session of movement learning, which involves easy movements performed in response to Nichols's verbal cues. 11 a.m.-noon, Movement Learning Systems, 6921 Jackson Rd. Free. 913-1072.

Holiday Gift Show and Sale. Show and sale of handmade books, silk scarves, jewelry, metalwork, note cards, paintings, and other items, by several local artists, including Barbara Brown, Lynda Cole, Esther Kirshenbaum, Lisa Marra, Sue Moran, and Nancy Wolfe. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 2559 Blueberry Lane, left off N. Maple just north of M-14. Free admission. 996-1420.

***American Girl Club: Barnes & Noble.** All girls ages 7-12 invited to delve into the world of the American Girl collection of historical dolls. This month's discussion is *Addy's Surprise: A Christmas Story*, Connie Porter's story about a 10-year-old African American girl, recently escaped from slavery with her mother, who is looking forward to her first Christmas celebrated in freedom. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-1618.

***Christmas at the Rentschler Farm Museum: Saline Area Historical Society.** December 11 & 12. A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas at this century-old sheep farm, now a farm museum, currently festooned in 1930s-style holiday decorations. Refreshments and a gift shop stocked with rag rugs, collectibles, etched mugs, cake plates, bean soup mix, and more. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 11), 1-4 p.m. (Dec. 12), Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Donation. 769-2219.

***Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 4 Saturday. Followed today at 5:30 p.m. by the 2nd Fred Schmid Memorial Holiday Light Parade, a downtown parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. South Florida. Noon, Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

"Birds of Arizona": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Slide-illustrated talk by Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck.



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11 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$2. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426-8211.

★**Classical Bells:** Ann Arbor District Library. This acclaimed 12-member, 74-bell Detroit-area handbell ensemble performs a program of sacred, secular, and seasonal pieces, including popular, jazz, and hymn tunes. The performance includes some choreography and discussion of the music and its history. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**"6th Annual Tuba Christmas."** All invited to listen to or perform in (bring your instrument and a music stand) an outdoor concert of holiday carols performed on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor tuba concerts held across the nation and in Canada today, in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$10). Dress warmly: "There's no protection out there," warns an organizer. 2-4 p.m., S. State at North University. Free (performers, \$6). 972-4113.

★**"Stories for the Season of Light":** Whole Foods Market. Local storyteller Rowena Conahan presents a program of stories, crafts, and songs about Christmas, Hanukkah, and other holidays, for kids ages 4-8 with their parents. 3 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★**"A Boychoir Christmas":** Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 32 boys in its 18th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured work is John Rutter's *Dancing Day*, a suite of popular carols for treble voices and harp, with Allegra Lilly, a Detroit-area harp prodigy who is currently a student at Juilliard. The program also includes David Willcocks's arrangements of "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful," Harry Simeone and Katherine Davis's "The Little Drummer Boy," and the energetic Renaissance carol "Gaudete!" (with handbell choir). The beautiful Welsh carol "Suo Gan" is sung by a solo boy. The boy singers are supplemented by the Arbor Men Singers, who provide the lower choral parts, and the choir is accompanied on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter organ by National Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy. The Boychoir's 13-member Preparatory Choir performs the traditional "Sussex Carol" and "Welcome Yule!" Also, sale of the Boychoir Christmas CD. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5; families, \$40) in advance and at the door. 663-5377.

★**"A Christmas Tree Town":** Treetown Community Chorus. David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a program of jazz settings of familiar carols and other works TBA. 4 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 213-3770.

★**Early Music Ensemble:** U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this music-student ensemble in "Beatus Vir" from Monteverdi's hymn *Selva Morale e Spirituale*, and works by Gabrieli, Hassler, and De Wert. 4 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0583.

★**"Sing Along with Santa":** Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa. Accompanists are local pianist Lori Zupan, AASO cellist Eric Amidon, and AASO violinist Lisa Tarzia. WAAM radio host Lucy Ann Lance emcees. Refreshments follow the concert. 4-5 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 (children 12 & under, \$5; families, \$25; patrons, \$50) in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994-4801.

★**Indonesian Potluck:** U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. All invited to join members of the local Indonesian community for a potluck. Bring a dish to pass. 5-7 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

★**Cultural Show:** Children's Russian Club. Local Russian children present the club's staged adaptations of 2 literary works. The first, based on E. Shvarts's version of *Little Red Riding Hood*, involves the classic tale of a trusting waif wandering the woods. Also, a condensed version of *Hamlet*, Shakespeare's tragedy about the Danish prince undone by the futility of avenging his father's murder. The plays are performed in Russian, with English-



EMU alum and local favorite John Heffron performs at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Dec. 16.

language synopses provided. 5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741-1953.

★**Women's Glee Club:** U-M School of Music. Gabriela Hristova leads this music-student ensemble in works by Jannequin, Arcadelt, Mendelssohn, Conte, Casals, Kidd, Spevcek, and Cobb. 6 & 9 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State. Tickets \$8 at the door. 763-4726.

★**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Indiana/Purdue-Indianapolis.** 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

★**Commstock Fund-Raising Concert: The Neutral Zone.** Performances by local high school bands and singer-songwriters, including Epimax, the Mistfers, The Plot Thickens, and Comatose Colin. Proceeds benefit Community High's annual end-of-year music festival. 7 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$5 (members, \$3). 214-9995.

★**"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories":** Dreamland Theater. December 11, 12, 18, & 19. Naia Venturi directs her original multimedia marionette show, based on stories by Hans Christian Andersen, about the friendship between a girl and boy. When a hobgoblin curses a mirror that breaks and cuts the boy, he becomes the prisoner of the Snow Queen, and his friend sets out to save him. Seating is limited; reservations recommended. 7 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$7 (kids 12 & under, \$5). 657-2337.

★**Hanukkah-Christmas-Kwanzaa Party:** U-M Hillel. All invited to celebrate the holidays of the season. Refreshments. 7:30-10 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill. Free. 769-0500.

★**"18th Annual Winter Concert":** Ann Arbor Youth Chorus. Richard Ingram and Shayla Powell conduct 2 ensembles of talented local youth singers ages 9-16 in a program of Hanukkah favorites, traditional and contemporary carols, spirituals, and Broadway selections. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. Tickets \$7 (students & seniors, \$4) at the door only. 996-4404.

★**"Noche Buena: Christmas in the Golden Age of Spain":** Vox Early Music Ensemble. Christopher Wolverton directs this Ann Arbor-based early-music chorus, an ensemble of professional singers from southeastern Michigan, Denver, and New York, in a program highlighted by various kinds of 16th-century Spanish Christmas music including sacred motets and Mass movements by Victoria, Morales, Guerrero, and others and passionate and elegant Iberian songs, along with several villancicos, the 16th-century Spanish equivalent of Christmas carols. Also, some Gregorian chant and 2 Cantigas de Santa Maria, monophonic medieval songs from the reign of Alfonso X. The program concludes with the premiere of Vox composer-in-residence Kristin Kuster's "Lux Fulgebit," a work inspired by the Gregorian chant setting of the Introit of the Christmas Day Mass at Dawn. 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, State at Kingsley. \$8 (seniors, \$12; students, \$5) at the door only. 944-0243.

***"Family Secrets": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M Residential College students perform excerpts from a variety of contemporary plays exploring images of the American family. 7:30 p.m., RC auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 10 Friday, 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Tempest": Young Actors Guild. See 10 Friday, 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Gems of the American Ballroom": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. An elegant evening of 19th-century dances, including waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, schottisches, and galops. Vintage attire (see www.vintagedance.com/dress-rag.htm) encouraged but not required. Dancers of all abilities welcome. Refreshments. Also, \$5 preball workshops (free for those attending the ball), 11:30-1:30 p.m. 7:45-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange Hall, Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$25. Preregistration required. 769-0041.

***"Latke Party": Chabad House.** All invited to a dinner centered around yummy home-cooked latkes. Apple sauce, coffee, juice, and side dishes. 8 p.m., Chabad House, 715 Hill. \$5 donation. 995-3276.

"A Night at the Oscars": U-M Gimble. Peppy a cappella pop songs from Oscar-winning movies by this 15-member coed a cappella ensemble that, according to an organizer, "sprang from the lap of the U-M Arts Chorale in early 1997, when several choristers were caught singing the same song at the same time in harmony." Also, a guest performance by a vocal ensemble from the University of Toronto. 8 p.m., Modern Languages auditorium 4, 812 E. Washington. Ticket price TBA. 763-1107.

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$4. 822-2120.

Contemporary Directions: U-M School of Music. Andrew George leads this adventurous music-student ensemble in Heinz Gruber's *Frankenstein!!!*, a disturbing cabaret-style work, influenced by Kurt Weill, that Gruber describes as a "pan-demonium for chameleon and orchestra." U-M music grad student Joshua Penman sings the text, which consists of violent political statements set to incongruously innocuous nursery-rhyme tunes, accompanied by humorous toy instruments among the standard orchestral instruments. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

Close Embrace of the Earth and Sublingual: Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. Avant-jazz double bill. Close Embrace of the Earth features local reedman Piotr Michalowski, East Coast reedman Lenni Bukowski, and area violinist Mike Khoury. Its music blends contemporary idioms, the blues, and free improvisation, and Michalowski describes it as "very abstract but highly emotional, relying on shifting texture and rhythms more than melody." Sublingual is a sextet that fuses elements of free improvisation and atmospheric, operatic vocals. Performers are reedmen Michalowski and Elijah Church, reedman and violinist James Cornish, bassist Rob Crozier, percussionist Michael G. Nastos, and soprano Janessa Cardillo. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Anne Sofie von Otter: University Musical Society. This elegant Swedish singer, widely regarded as one of the world's best mezzo-sopranos as well as a vocal chameleon—she's sung everything from Carmen to ABBA covers—is distinguished by the enchanting subtlety of her technique and the radiant, deep, increasingly expressive beauty of her tone. Tonight's program ranges from traditional carols to Nordic songs. In past holiday concerts, she's spiced things up with souped-up Faure and Marilyn Monroe's sashaying rendition of Eartha Kitt's "Santa Baby." Otter is joined by her longtime accompanist, Bengt Forsberg, and her 7-member touring ensemble. A *Guardian* critic described one of Otter's holiday concerts as "huge fun." 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$56 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

Juliana Hatfield: The Ark. The former lead singer of the Boston-based Blake Babies, Hatfield sings like a scrapperie Chrissie Hynde and writes vivid, impassioned original rock 'n' roll songs with catchy melodies. She recently released the CD *In Exile Days*, a collection of what one critic called "deeply personal and striking songs that jangle with a pop din but simmer with more intellectual fare." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Borders

on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday, 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Rover": U-M Theater Department. See 9 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"The Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday, 8 & 10 p.m.

Elvira Kurt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 9 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer": Pangea Project Improv Troupe. See 9 Thursday, 11 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday, Midnight.

FILMS

MTF, "The Primer" (Shane Carruth, 2004). See 10 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

12 SUNDAY

Cookie Walk: Dixboro United Methodist Church. At this big cookie sale, fill up a large or small coffee can (provided by the church) with pfeffermuesse and other German and Scandinavian goodies. 9 a.m.—"until they're gone." DUMC, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 662-5632.

***"Te Deum and Jubilate Deo": First United Methodist Church.** Braxton Blake leads the local Heron Chamber Orchestra and the church's chancel choir in Henry Purcell's sparkling, joyous choral masterpiece, which Blake calls the summation of his life's work. Soloists: soprano Abigail Haynes, mezzo Lorraine Sullivan, tenor David Trudgen, and baritone Nathan Brian. 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free. 662-4536.

***"Raw and Living Foods Support and Potluck": Natural Awakenings.** Potluck (bring a raw or living food dish) and group discussion. "Living food" means things like bean sprouts, not cows. 1-3 p.m., call for location. Free. 769-7794.

40th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by former longtime Pioneer High choral director Bob Pratt. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 12:30 p.m. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 1 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 677-7067.

***Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics.** The U-M women's gymnastics team, a perennial Big Ten champion that competed in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2004-2005 season with an intrasquad meet. 2 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

***"Masterworks of African Art: Yoruba": U-M Museum of Art.** December 12 & 16. Docent-guided tour of this exhibit. 2 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 7 p.m. (Dec. 16), UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

***"In Search of December Green": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to search for wildflower leaf rosettes, club mosses, ferns, conifers, and other plants that stay green all winter. 2 p.m., meet at Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23), Chelsea. Free. 971-6337.

***"A Distant Thunder: Michigan in the Civil War": Ann Arbor District Library Sunday Edition.** Historian Richard Bak, the author of several books on various aspects of Michigan history, discusses his recent book. Signing. Copies of the book available for purchase. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 17. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4200.

***"Cover to Cover": Ann Arbor District Library.** An AADL librarian leads a discussion of U-M creative writing visiting professor Nancy Reisman's debut novel, *The First Desire*, the story of the intimate dynamics of a Jewish family living in Buffalo from

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12 SUNDAY EVENTS continued

the late 20s into the 50s. 2-4 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 327-4200.

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Alisa Dodson leads to music by Dr. Grangelove. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. 2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$10. 665-7704.

★Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-3942, 769-2105.

★Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747-9644, 761-1451.

★Chamber Music Group: U-M Residential College. Katri Ervamaa directs RC students in a varied program of chamber music. 2 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 10 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Tempest": Young Actors Guild. See 10 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings": Luree Productions. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Rover": U-M Theater Department. See 9 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★Christmas Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in Norman Dello Joio's *Variations on a Medieval Tune* and other seasonal favorites. Also, a visit from Santa. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

★Campus Band: U-M School of Music. Damon Talley leads this non-music-student ensemble in works by Wagner, Dello Joio, Grainger, Zdechlik, Ticheli, and others. 3 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

"Holiday Memories": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a concert of holiday favorites and a tribute to WW II veterans that features music from that era. Accompanist is local pianist Gene Gaunt. 3 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Donation. 994-2300, ext. 228.

Hanukkah Party: Chabad House. All invited to bowl (shoe rental included). Also, a science demonstration by Lar, the Science Guy. Refreshments available. 3-5 p.m., Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial. \$9 (\$11 after Dec. 4), \$20 per family (\$22 after Dec. 4) in advance only. 994-9832.

Christmas Concert: American Chorale of Sacred Music. This local choral ensemble is joined by the Chelsea First United Methodist Church choir in performances of Vivaldi's vivacious, trenchant Gloria, 3 Christmas anthems, and a carol sing-along with the audience. Soloists: Angie Perino, Sally Carpenter, Beverly Slater, and Wayne Cook. Donald Williams conducts. 4 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church, 128 Park St., east off Main St. just south of Middle St., Chelsea. Donation. 665-6809.

Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. Thomas Hilbish leads this polished semiprofessional local ensemble in Bernstein's hauntingly beautiful *Chichester Psalms* and Mozart's moving *Vespers*. 4 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12) at the door only. 717-7095.

II-V-I Orchestra: Kerrytown Concert House. This veteran local big band led by saxophonist David Swain plays Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington's swinging arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, perhaps the finest existing fusion of classical and jazz idioms. Also, other Strayhorn works, including the Michigan premiere of his *Pentonsilic* suite. 4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories": Dreamland Theater. See 11 Saturday. 4 p.m.

★Queer Fiction Book Club. All invited to discuss *The Story of the Night*, Lambda Award-winning author Colm Toibin's portrait of an Argentinean man coming to grips with his homosexuality, set against the backdrop of the Falklands Islands wars. 4:30-6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.



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about getting older is
you don't lose all the
other ages you've been.*

—Madeleine L'Engle

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★**Living Nativity: St. Francis of Assisi.** All invited to view a re-creation of the Nativity story. 6:30-7:30 p.m., *St. Francis of Assisi Parish Activities Center* (adjacent to the church), 2250 E. Stadium. Free. 769-2550.

★**"Christmas Party": University Reformed Church.** All invited for carol singing, musical performances TBA, a recitation of the Christmas story, and a reception with homemade Christmas treats. Refreshments. 7 p.m., *University Reformed Church*, 928 E. Ann. Free. 662-3153.

★**Advent Concert: Northside Community Church.** Mary Ellen Hagel leads the chancel, youth, children's, and bell choirs in a program of vocal and instrumental Christmas music. 7 p.m., *Northside Community Church*, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

★**"An Advent Procession": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** The St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs and handbell choir perform Peter Hallock's contemporary setting of the Advent chants known as the "O" Antiphons. They are interspersed with readings, hymns, and anthems, including music by Palestrina, Willcocks, Gerald Near, and others TBA. 7:30 p.m., *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

★**A Musical Holiday Celebration: EMU Music Department.** The local men's chorus *Measure for Measure* joins the *Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra* for a program of holiday choral music that includes "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," "Gesu Bambino," and the "Hallelujah Chorus." 7:30 p.m., *Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti*. \$15 (seniors, \$12; students, \$5) in advance and at the door. 487-1221, 487-2282.

★**31st Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash: First Unitarian Church.** "Smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, turn out every year for this feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's top-notch performers include veteran Detroit blues pianist *Bob Seeley*, Indianapolis ragtime pianist *Terry Parrish*, local ragtime pianist *John Remmers*, acclaimed ragtime historian *Mike Montgomery*, recent U-M grad *Kent "Cannonball" Eshelman*, and others. 7:30 p.m., *First Unitarian Church*, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets \$15 in advance at *Nicola's Books* and at the door. 665-6158.

★**"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno.** See 5 Sunday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

★**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classic Series.** "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). Warmhearted yet often tartly satiric comedy tale about a boy in 40s Indiana who wants nothing more for Christmas than a BB gun. Based on Jean Shepherd's humorous novel *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater. 3:30 p.m. "The Primer" (Shane Carruth, 2004). See 10 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

13 MONDAY

★**Social Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** December 13 & 27. All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. 12:30-3:30 p.m., *Ann Arbor Senior Center*, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

★**Avis Farms Toastmasters.** December 13 & 27. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. 5:15-7 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room B, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: \$18 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 332-1200.

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** Every Monday except December 6. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on recreating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. 7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.

★**"Menopause and Perimenopause": Natural Awakenings.** Talk by local herbalist and naturopath *Mary Light*. 7:30 p.m., call for location. Free. Pre-registration required. 769-7794.

★**Jazz Arrangers Class Concert: U-M School of Music.** The Jazz Arranging Ensemble performs arrangements and original compositions by U-M music students. 8 p.m., *U-M School of Music Stearns Bldg, Cady Room*, 2005 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Andrew George leads this music-student ensemble in Leonard Bernstein's *Divertimento* and George Walker's *Lyric for Strings*. 8 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Free. 763-4726.

FILMS

★**MTE, "The Primer"** (Shane Carruth, 2004). See 10 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

14 TUESDAY

★**Distinguished Lecture Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** Third in a series of 9 monthly lectures by different U-M scholars. Open to anyone age 55 & older. Today: U-M English professor *Ralph Williams*, a very popular lecturer, discusses "Dante's Inferno: Poetry to Alight the Soul." Other topics in this extremely varied series range from national energy and environmental policy to the history of the U-M Arboretum. 10-11:30 a.m., *Best Western Conference Center*, 2900 Jackson Rd. \$45 (LIR members, \$30) for the 9-lecture series, \$25 (LIR members, \$10) per lecture. LIR memberships are \$15 a year. 998-9351.

★**Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory.** Docent-guided tour of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope that rotates the telescope dome. 1-4 p.m., *U-M Detroit Observatory*, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763-2230.

★**Ann Arbor Checkers and Draughts Society.** December 14 & 28. Adults invited to play games of checkers, or "draughts" (the British term). Also, participants can try to solve tricky end-of-game brain-teasers. 6:30 p.m., *downtown cafe TBA*. Free. 827-0328.

★**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Boston University.** 7 p.m., *Crisler Arena*. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

★**"Treating Depression Naturally": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series.** Talk by local naturopathic physician *Michele Loewe*. 7-8:30 p.m., *PFC*, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Pre-registration required. 994-4589.

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** Rescheduled from October. All age 21 & older invited to discuss Bram Stoker's classic vampire novel *Dracula*. Sherry & snacks served. 7-9 p.m., *3184 Angell Hall*. Free. 764-2553.

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Dave Foreman's *Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century*. 7:30 p.m., *Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center*. Free. 769-2149.

★**Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** Talk by a club member TBA on skiing techniques, along with tips about up-north restaurants. 7:30 p.m., *Kerrytown Concert House*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665-0248.

★**Winter Band Concert: Huron Players.** Steve Roberts leads the 3 Huron bands in a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., *Huron High School Meyers Auditorium*, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994-2040.

★**Tuesday Night Dancers.** Every Tuesday except December 7. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance lesson (\$5). Dress code observed. Note: The club holds a dinner dance on December 7 (see listing). 8-10 p.m., *Grotto Club of Ann Arbor*, 2070 W. Stadium. \$6. (517) 787-6367, (517) 592-5771.

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler leads this music-student ensemble in a performance of Ginastera's *Harp Concerto* featuring music grad student *Nadia Pessoa*. Also Mozart's *Symphony no. 32* and Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*. 8 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Free. 763-4726.

★**NoMo: The Ark.** See review, p. 87. A mix of Afrobeat with Sun Ra- and Coltrane-influenced jazz by this local 16-piece ensemble featuring members of Cloud Nine Music and others. The group's debut *Ypsilanti Records* recording and a live WCBN-FM recording are both popping up on college radio stations across the country. Dance floor available. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$14 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above.** See 7 Tuesday. 10 p.m.-midnight.

FILMS

★**Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series.** "White Christmas" (Michael Curtiz, 1954). Two nightclub performers help an old army pal try to make his winter resort popular. Musical score by Irving Berlin. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater. 7 p.m. "The Primer" (Shane Carruth, 2004). See 10 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

15 WEDNESDAY

★**"Holiday Luncheon": National Association of Career Women.** Each guest gives a short talk on her business. 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., *Weber's Inn*, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$20 (members, \$16). 769-2500.

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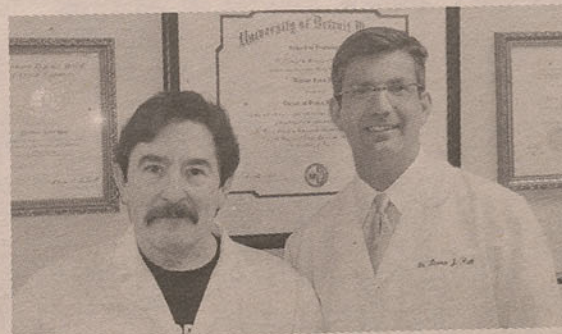
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followed by Lunch at The Prickly Pear
\$35

15 WEDNESDAY EVENTS continued

★**Drum Circle.** Local drummer Lori Fithian leads this exuberant intergenerational drum circle. Bring a drum or borrow one of hers. No experience necessary. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★**"Battle of the Jeeptots": Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** Club members demonstrate their Jeep Sumobots in the parking lot, discuss events for the coming year, and present an informal show-and-tell of their current projects. 7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson Ave., behind KFC). Free. 332-1000.

★**"Cinema Slam": Michigan Theater Foundation.** A lively, entertaining 2-hour smorgasbord of films made by Ann Arborites, from VHS home movies to 35 mm films by independent filmmakers. All invited to submit a film in VHS, DVD, or Beta format. "It's not a film till someone sees it!" Followed by an informal reception with the filmmakers at Espresso Royale on State Street. Evening time TBA, Michigan Theater. \$5. 646-9364, 668-8480.

★**Poetry Group: Barnes & Noble.** All poets invited to bring samples of their work for the group to critique. Hosted by local poet Lawrence Thomas. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Weird Wednesday": Dreamland Theater.** Monthly open stage for off-the-wall performance artists, screenings of short videos and films, monologues, "self-styled comics, musicians, and other avant bards." Performers can sign up shortly before the show. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

★**"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 1 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 1 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Seducing Dr. Lewis" (Jean-Francois Pouliot, 2004). December 15-21. Winsome comedy about a Quebec fishing village on the skids that determinedly woos a physician to move there so that a plastic factory will relocate to their town. French, subtitles. \$8.50 (children, students, veterans, & seniors, \$5.50). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "The Primer" (Shane Carruth, 2004). See 10 Friday, Mich., times TBA.

16 THURSDAY

★**"Dr. Snowflake": International Neighbors.** U-M Hospitals physician Thomas Clark, famous locally for his incredibly intricate cut-paper snowflakes, shows some of his snowflakes and teaches how to make them. Bring your own scissors and pencil. All area women invited. International Neighbors is a 46-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. 9:30 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 996-2912.

★**Healthy Kids Reading and Activity Hour: U-M MFit.** Parents and preschoolers invited to hear a story on a health topic and do a simple related craft. This month's topic: "Hand Washing." 1:30-2:30 p.m., East Ann Arbor Health Center, 4260 Plymouth Rd. Free. 647-5645.

★**Play Reading Group: Jewish Community Center.** Local playwright-actress Rachel Urist hosts an improvised staged reading of a play TBA. 2-3:15 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. 7-9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 434-5152.

★**"It": Ann Arbor District Library.** The eclectic local ensemble Blue Dahlia performs its original score for a screening of Clarence Badger's 1927 silent classic starring Clara Bow as a gold-digging department store salesgirl with designs on her boss. The Blue Dahlia score is an inventive amalgam of samba, tango, spoken-word, and rock. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Community Band.** Jerry Robbins directs this 50-member adult band, which is joined by the Ypsilanti Community Choir under Denise Zellner for a program of Christmas music. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 697-3471.

★**"Altitude: The Story of the First Cancer Survivor to Climb Mount Everest": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal

singer-songwriters



Jen Cass Midwestern twang

If you're a music lover who grew up in the 1960s and 1970s, you probably have a story about how a record saved your life, or at least got you through some dark days. If I had a dollar for every time people have told me that Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* or John Lennon's *Plastic Ono Band* stopped them from jumping off a bridge, I'd have lots more cash to buy CDs. While Jen Cass isn't a Morrison or a Lennon, her two CDs, including last year's *Skies Burning Red*, have definitely helped lift my spirits out of their postelection funk.

Cass grew up in the 'burbs of Detroit listening to Joan Baez and Kris Kristofferson, but you'd be hard pressed to guess that from her music. Her voice is this grainy, sing-

spoken vehicle that brings to mind the Carter Family and other sounds of the South, in a sort of pop-music high lonesome way. She's a less bluesy Lucinda Williams, a more gutsy, less melodic Mary Chapin Carpenter, and she has an emotional fire in her tone that's hard to put your finger on. But it finally hit me: it's a Michigan flavor, the midwestern twang in her singing that she's tossed into old-time country folk music and updated as a kind of pop music.

Using guitar, piano, and mandolin, Cass creates a sound that is easy on the ear and would fit onto any adult alternative radio format in the country. But she really shines as a lyricist. She mentions in her press bio that she's a fan of Jim Croce, and that makes perfect sense: like Croce, she writes tunes about small-town life and broken hearts. Whether it's a tale of the desperation of recalling a life-changing ex-lover in "A Kind of Compromise" or a lullaby to a lost friend on his wedding day in the haunting "Vagabond Heart," she sings about real hearts and real souls in a way that makes their experiences of pain and loss palpable. Her characters might be living on the streets of Tacoma or drinking their lives away in Mexico or hanging on the edge of breakdown as they drive across Canada looking for some emotional connection, but at heart all of her songs have deep roots in Michigan small-town life.

What gives Jen Cass's music the power to lift your heart from the blues is an underlying sense of hope. While her sagas of souls in struggle are bittersweet, Cass is a master at smile tunes too. "Madeleine," for instance, is a song about the life of a small child that provides the musical equivalent of a Hallmark card without the sappiness and cliché.

Jen Cass joins fellow singer-songwriters Joe Jencks and Justin Roth for an in-the-round showcase at the Ark on Thursday, December 2. She is also part of the annual Ark concert of the Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace on Sunday, December 19.

—Alan Goldsmith

screens her inspirational documentary of intrepid Colorado climber Sean Swamer. 8 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369-3107.

***Creative Musicianship Concert: U-M Residential College.** U-M music professor Mark Kirschmann directs RC students in a program of improvisational music. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 16-18. A South Lyon native and EMU grad who moved to L.A. last year, Heffron specializes in observations about the indignities and absurdities of life from the point of view of children and young people. A local favorite since his days as a Comedy Showcase opening act. On Thursdays the headliner is preceded by as many as 6 rookie comics; on weekends, the headliner is preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

Reverend Horton Heat: The Blind Pig. Raunchily inebriated postpunk rockabilly by this acclaimed Texas trio led by the crazed vocals and whiplash guitar of frontman Heat. His "Like a Rocket," a song from his 2002 CD *Lucky 7*, was selected as the official theme song of the 2002 Daytona 500. Opening act TBA. 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$18 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, \$20 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information, call 996-8555.

"Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer": Pangea Project Improv Troupe. See 9 Thursday. 11 p.m.

FILMS

Ann Arbor District Library. "It" (Clarence Badger,

1927). See Events listing above. FREE. AADL, 7 p.m. MTF. **"The Primer"** (Shane Carruth, 2004). See 10 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"Seducing Dr. Lewis"** (Jean-Francois Pouliot, 2004). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

17 FRIDAY

Psychic Fair: Psychic Visions Network. Area psychics offer readings using tarot, astrology, numerology, crystals, and other methods. Fees vary but are usually around \$30 for a 30-minute (or longer) session. 6 p.m.-midnight, Comfort Inn, 2455 Carpenter. \$5 admission. 320-7704.

***Mario Kart Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults ages 18 & older invited to compete in a tournament playing this popular auto racing video game. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

"Friday Night Live": Ann Arbor Parks Department Youth Outreach Program. Supervised dance party for middle (7-9:30 p.m.) and high school (9:30 p.m.-midnight) students. DJs play a variety of current R&B, rock, rap, and pop. 7 p.m.-midnight, Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard. \$3. 997-1615.

Finvarra's Wren: The Ark. Traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Celtic-American dances and carols by this local ensemble. Regular members Jim Perkins, Cheryl Burns, Terence McKinney, and Marty Somberg are usually joined by various guest musicians. Also, Irish step dancing. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Writing Christmas": Father Gabriel Richard High School. December 17-19. Anne Kolaczowski-Magee directs Gabriel Richard students in their original play about the holiday. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$5 at the door only. 662-0496.

20th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Bal-

let Theater. December 17-19. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. The score is performed live by the Michigan Sinfonietta, conducted by Leo Najjar. Tonight's performance is followed by a gala afterglow whose proceeds benefit Mott Children's Hospital. 8 p.m., Power Center. Dec. 17 gala: \$75; Dec. 18 & 19: \$22 (seniors & students, \$18; children 12 & under, \$12). Tickets available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS. Information: 973-8278, 476-8594.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 16 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Holly Daze Dance": Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s-90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6). 973-1933.

"Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer": Pangea Project Improv Troupe. See 9 Thursday. 11 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). December 17-23. Acclaimed bio-pic of pioneering American sex researcher Alfred Kinsey. Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Chris O'Donnell. \$8.50 (children, students, veterans, & seniors, \$5.50). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Seducing Dr. Lewis"** (Jean-Francois Pouliot, 2004). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Film & Video.** "The Lighthouse Festival: End-of-Term Screenings" (various directors, 2004). December 17 & 18. U-M film students screen their short films representing every genre. An organizer notes that the quality of student films is very high this year. FREE. 764-0147. Natural Science auditorium (830 N. University), 7 p.m.-midnight.

18 SATURDAY

58th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into 8 regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening. 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Nancy French at 994-8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663-9746 or 665-7427.

17th Annual Bake Sale: St. Vladimir's Church. Big show and sale of meat and cheese twist pastries, pierogi, spinach pie, baklava, holiday breads, and other treats. Also, sale of a selection of Palestinian embroideries and European crafts and religious items. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 9900 Jackson (2 miles west of Baker), Dexter. Free admission. 769-2686.

***AGLOW International.** All invited to join this group of Christian women for a light breakfast followed by a talk on the Christmas story by an AGLOW member TBA. 9:15-11:30 a.m., Courthouse Square Apts. ballroom, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 971-4545.

***"Chapter of Life Book Club": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to discuss a book TBA. Light snack. 11 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center. Free. 769-5911.

***Mario Kart Grand Championship Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** High-ranking contestants from the last 4 monthly tournaments for kids in grades 6-12 compete today for the grand champi-

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18 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

onship. A short wild-card tournament is at noon to give newcomers a chance to make it to the championship. Mario Kart is a popular auto racing video game. Noon-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**Auditions: Saline Area Players.** December 18 & 19. All invited to try out for a role in a mid-March production of *Moon over Buffalo*. Afternoon time TBA, Saline Middle School auditorium, 7286 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd., Saline. Free. 429-2220.

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the primal mother Danu and sun god Bel with singing, offerings, and honoring of ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass). Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday, 2-5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 998-1029.

★**LaRon Williams: Performance Network Children's Theater Network.** Storytelling program by this popular local storyteller, a specialist in African American stories who uses a wide range of dialects, gestures, and facial expressions to conjure all sorts of human, animal, and supernatural characters. His repertoire includes folk, literary, historical, and musical tales. 2 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$10 (youth 16 & under, \$7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

★**Mitch Albom: Borders Express.** This Pulitzer award-winning *Detroit Free Press* sportswriter signs copies of his best-selling 2003 novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. 3 p.m., Borders Express (formerly Waldenbooks), Briarwood mall. Free. 669-0785.

★**"Calling All Owls": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike through the woods to listen for great horned owls. Preceded by an indoor presentation on owls. For age 7 & older. 6 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$2. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426-8211.

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics.** The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 5th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2004-2005 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

★**Ska Fest 6: The Neutral Zone.** Performances by After School Special, The Skafia, and other local high school ska bands TBA. 7 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$5 (members, \$3). 214-9995.

★**"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories": Dreamland Theater.** See 11 Saturday. 7 p.m.

★**Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** All invited to join in singing around a candlelit tree. Refreshments, socializing. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 485-3764.

★**Christmas Concert: Vocal Arts Ensemble.** See review, p. 93. Ben Cohen leads this local a cappella chorus in a program highlighted by Swiss composer Franck Martin's glorious, deeply emotional 1926 setting of the Mass, a work Martin withheld for 37 years because he felt it was too personal for public performance. 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, N. Division at Catherine. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$5; kids 12 & under, free) at the door only. 996-9635.

★**3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers.** Peter Baker and Robin Warner call contras to live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8. 426-0241.

★**Maura O'Connell: The Ark.** Dubbed "the girl with the nightingale voice," this Irish American singer is a former member of De Danann whose 1988 debut solo LP immediately established her as a major star in Ireland, and she's since become a critical and popular favorite on both sides of the Atlantic. She sings in an exquisitely rich voice that ranges easily between warm whispers and high declamations full of swooning vibrato. Her repertoire includes pop songs by Paul Brady and other Irish contemporaries, some traditional Irish songs, Irish American standards like "Irish Molly," and even jazz and southern gospel tunes. A big local favorite ever since she stole the show at the 1988 Ann Arbor Folk Festival. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$22.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket

plays

She Loves Me

The lighter side of 1930s Europe

Europe in the decade before World War II, under the looming specter of fascism, has supplied some of our best plotlines for musicals. In Berlin we have Sally Bowles consorting with Nazis and the demimonde. In Salzburg the von Trapp family tries to stop the Anschluss with a song. Meanwhile, somewhere in Budapest, some face cream squirts out the wrong end of the tube, and boy oh boy, is the boss steamed.

Set in a 1930s Budapest perfume shop, *She Loves Me*, with songs by Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock (*Fiddler on the Roof*), is a musical version of *The Shop around the Corner*, a 1940 film starring Margaret Sullivan and Jimmy Stewart. You might be more familiar with a loose adaptation starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan called *You've Got Mail*. All three of these shows, plus a few others that made less of a splash, originate from a 1930s Hungarian script by Nikolaus Laszlo.

It's the tale of a spunky (aren't they all?) ingenue who meets an eligible bachelor. (True to the formula of the era, he doesn't really need any personality traits of his own—his mere availability is considered fascinating.) We know these two lonely hearts are destined for coupledom because of their instant and mutual loathing. The rest of the cast includes a cad, an aging good-time girl who wants to get married, a tyrannical boss, a few others less easily pigeonholed, and a chorus for the big production numbers.

Silly as it is, this production is—I've got to use the C word here—it's charming. It's two hours of intensely seductive pleasure that is conjured out of thin air and evaporates with the curtain call, leaving no aftertaste, and certainly leaving you no wiser about anything happening anywhere in the real world. It's a gorgeous swirl of marcelled hair, frothy dresses on hourglass-shaped women, cafe-society sophistication, and, oddly enough, klezmer.

Backing all the songs, and there are dozens of them, is an exotic klezmer band (composed of accordion, clarinet, violin, and upright bass) whose undulating and at times discordant wail is unexpected and perfect. Between the smallness of the story and the plainness of the Performance Network's black-box theater, I sus-



pect more traditional orchestration would have tipped the balance and made this musical a wheezy mockery of itself.

Klezmer and the two women carry this show. Jennifer Joan Joy, in the Margaret Sullivan / Meg Ryan part, is a newcomer to the Network stage, and she and Naz Edwards (playing the spinster) deliver one showstopper after another. Late in the show, when singing about vanilla ice cream, Joy belts out a high, sustained note opera-style. On the night I was there, it rocked the house and sent the audience leafing through their programs to find her bio.

Though not a big event by Broadway standards, this is a risky, large-scale production for the Performance Network, and it succeeds thoroughly. Its six-week run continues Thursday through Sunday (except Christmas Day) through December 26.

—Sally Mitani

2004). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Film & Video. "The Lighthouse Festival: End-of-Term Screenings" (various directors, 2004). See 17 Friday. Nat. Sci., 1-5 p.m. & 7 p.m.-midnight.

19 SUNDAY

★**Mario Kart Tournament:** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids ages 6-12 invited to compete in a tournament playing this popular auto racing video game. 2-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited to an afternoon of dancing square dances and contras. Also, live music and party games. Callers are John Freeman and David Williams, with music by the trio of pianist David West, fiddler Donna Baird, and bassist Mark Williams. 2-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). \$12 per family. 662-3371.

"Writing Christmas": Father Gabriel Richard High School. See 17 Friday. 2 p.m.

20th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 17 Friday. 2 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Melodious Feast." An ensemble of local musicians performs Vivaldi's "O Qui Coeli Terraque Serenitas," a challenging motet that features one of the composer's catchier alleluias. Also, Bach's unassuming, delightfully playful Cantata no. 84, and works by Purcell, Scarlatti, and others. Performers: soprano Lois Swartzell, oboist Judi Scramlin, piccolo trumpeter Mark Jones, cellist Mimi Kim, harpsichordist Martha Folts, and violinist Keith Graves. 3-5 p.m., Artful Lodger, 1547 Washtenaw. Donation. 761-9715.

"The Snow Queen in Seven Stories": Dreamland Theater. See 11 Saturday. 4 p.m.

Living Nativity: First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. December 19, 20, & 21. This recreation of the Nativity tableau features live animals, people in period costume, and recorded music. Also, participatory carol-singing and animal-petting. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. Free. 485-4699.

3rd Annual Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace Benefit Concert: The Ark. Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include singer-songwriters Chris Buhalis, Dave Boutette, Brian Lillie, Jo Serrapere, Jay Stielstra, Annie Capps, Sari Brown, John Latini, Jason Dennie, and Jim Roll and the bands Whit Hill & Al Hill Duo, HoodDang, FUBAR, CornDaddy, and the Hillrays. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 5 Sunday. 8:30 p.m.

Perry Robinson & Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band: The Blind Pig. Jazz clarinetist Robinson, a 7-time winner of the Downbeat Jazz Poll, joins this local ensemble led by percussionist Muruga Booker to perform an upbeat blend of rock, world-beat, hip-hop, folk, jazz, and more. Other members are world-class local harmonica wizard Peter Madcat Ruth, vocalist Shakti, local keyboardist Martin Simmons, electric violinist Owen Balduf, bassist Richard Smith, and synthesizer player and Zen drummer Ken Kozora. Also, belly dancing by Rani Isis. 8:30 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. \$10 at the door only. 996-8555.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series. "Miracle on 34th Street" (Georgé Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity after he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 3:30 p.m. "Seducing Dr. Lewis" (Jean-Francois Pouliot, 2004). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

20 MONDAY

★**"End-of-Life Issues for Muslim Patients":** U-M Multicultural Health Series. Talk by U-M pediatric and pulmonary medicine professor Samya Z. Nasr. Noon-1 p.m., MCHC Auditorium, 1505 Simpson (off E. Medical Center Dr.). Free. 615-1404.

★**"Fantastic Creations with Hexabits":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids age 6 & up invited to construct a 3-dimensional object with these flexible

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"Babes in Toyland": Comic Opera Guild. Kimerica Parr directs local actors in Victor Herbert's cheerful fantasy about the triumph of good over evil—one of the few musicals to appeal to both children and adults. The "babes"—2 children shipwrecked by their evil uncle—find themselves in the magical Toyland, where Mother Goose characters come to life. Trouble arises when a villain, in pursuit of Mary Mary Quite Contrary, forces the local toy maker to aid him in his nefarious scheme. The eminently hummable score includes "Toyland," "March of the Wooden Soldiers," "Rock-a-Bye Baby," and "I Can't Do That Sum." Cast: Sara Emerson, Colleen Stano, Tom Petiet, Pat Petiet, Rebecca Engelhard, George Valenta, and Margaret Counihan. 2 & 8 p.m., Dexter High School Performing Arts Center, 2200 N. Parker Rd., Dexter. Tickets \$15 (seniors, \$12) available in advance and at the door. 763-8587.

"Writing Christmas": Father Gabriel Richard High School. See 17 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

20th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 17 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Mystery of Irma Vep": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 16 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Scandinavian Couples Dance Party: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couples dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. With live music by Rumpetroll, a local band led by fiddler Bruce Sagan. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. Snacks. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by dance lessons. 8:30-10:30 p.m., Gretchen's Dhu Varren, 1580 Dhu Varren. \$8 (students, \$5). (517) 355-8329.

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. All invited to join club members for ballroom dancing to recorded music. 9-11 p.m., Stardust Ballroom, Country Creek Shopping Center, 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$10. 662-5058, 665-3565.

Scott Morgan's Powertrane: The Blind Pig. Hard-edged blues and 60s-style Detroit rock 'n' roll by this quartet led by veteran singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. Morgan is also one of the best blues singers in town, with a sharp-edged, cannily rhythmic vocal attack that's both mean and soulful. Opening acts are Cyril Lords, a Detroit garage rock trio. 10 p.m.-midnight (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. \$6 (ages 19 & 20, \$9) at the door only. 996-8555.

"Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer": Pangea Project Improv Troupe. See 9 Thursday. 11 p.m.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. Midnight.

FILMS

MTF. "Seducing Dr. Lewis" (Jean-Francois Pouliot,

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20 MONDAY EVENTS *continued*

6-sided building tiles. 2-3 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 327-4200.

★**"It's a Wrap: Holiday Gift Wrapping":** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grade 4 & up invited to bring gifts to wrap. A variety of one-of-a-kind papers, stamps, and other materials provided. 2-3 p.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 426-3903.

★**Homeschool Band Concert: National Home-school Music Ensembles.** Katherine Johnson and Donald Dobrowsky lead this ensemble of local homeschooled children in Pachelbel's Canon, "Amazing Grace," holiday songs, and works by Bach and Leroy Anderson. 7 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free. 995-1205.

FILMS

MTF. **"Seducing Dr. Lewis"** (Jean-Francois Pouliot, 2004). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

21 TUESDAY

SpiritSisters Women's Circle. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Also, bring divination tools, if you like. 7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$3. 741-0478.

★**"The Dog Slam": Ann Arbor Poetry Slam.** This midmonth affair for those for whom the long-standing 1st Tuesday (see 7 Tuesday listing) is not enough features open-mike sessions and a variety of oddball ways of presenting poetry, including Midwest Poetry League contests, theme poetry, naked people poetry, and more. "We will leave no poem unread." 7-10 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. \$5. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

★**"Great Nature Trips from Around the Globe":** Sierra Club Annual Newcomers' Meeting. Slide-illustrated short talks by club members. All invited. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 480-7751.

★**Community Education Series: Dawn Farm.** December 21 & 28. Talks on addiction issues by community experts. Today: Dawn Farm social worker Julie Boster discusses "Addiction and the Whole Person." Also this month, Kelly Mullins discusses "Our Devilish Alcoholic Personalities" (December 28). 7:30-9 p.m., EC-4 Education Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Dr. Free. 485-8725.

★**"Tuesday Tickler":** The Heidelberg Club Above. See 7 Tuesday. 10 p.m.-midnight.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation Holiday Classics Series. **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Oh, you know the story. FREE. 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. **"Seducing Dr. Lewis"** (Jean-Francois Pouliot, 2004). See 15 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

22 WEDNESDAY

★**"Make It and Take It Art Project":** Ann Arbor District Library. December 22 & 28 (different branch locations). Families with young children invited to drop in to do a craft project. 2-4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch (Dec. 22), Plymouth Mall, & Mallett's Creek Branch (Dec. 28), 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). 327-4200.

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. 7:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entry on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 971-3455.

★**"Comedy Jamm Night":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

23 THURSDAY

★**"Silly Stories for All Ages":** Ann Arbor District Library. With nationally award-winning local story

teller Laura Pershin Raynor. 2-2:30 p.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Magical and Spiritual Uses of Herbs":** People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7:30-9 p.m., PFC, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

★**"She Loves Me":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm Night":** Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

24 FRIDAY (Christmas Eve)

★**Live Nativity: Third Millennium Chamber Chorus.** An outdoor living nativity complete with animals. Followed by a 5 p.m. service and reenactment of the Christmas story, also with animals. 4-5 and about 6-7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 222-3330.

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of Scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and the Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

★**"She Loves Me":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Festival Prelude":** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Frauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. 10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

FILMS

No films.

25 SATURDAY (Christmas)

FILMS

MTF. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

26 SUNDAY

★**"She Loves Me":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Beaver Moon Gathering":** Great Lakes Rain-bow. All invited to join local neohippies for a drum circle (bring your drum) and a potluck (bring a dish) to celebrate the full moon. No weapons or alcohol. 8 p.m., Liberty Farm, 4938 Liberty (just east of Zeeb). Park east of the farm on Dornach Dr. Free. 761-4243.

★**"Get Up Stand Up":** Improv Inferno. See 5 Sunday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

27 MONDAY

★**Mario Kart Open Play:** Ann Arbor District Library. All kids ages 6-12 invited to play this popular auto racing video game. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., AADL multi-purpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

★**Afternoon Book Group: Jewish Community Center.** All invited to discuss *Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides's novel about 3 generations of a Detroit Greek American family, a fable exploring crossed bloodlines, the intricacies of gender, and the deep, untidy promptings of desire. 1-2:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★**"Crossroads Ceili":** The Ark. December 27 & 28. 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by Irish fiddler James Kelly and pianist Barbara MacDonald Magone. Also, young fiddlers from Mike Gavin's School of Music and students from the Heinzman School of Irish Step Dancing, and other surprise guests TBA. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

FILMS

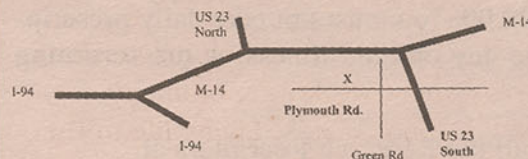
MTF. **"Kinsey"** (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

28 TUESDAY

★**"Toy Box":** Ann Arbor District Library. Dec.

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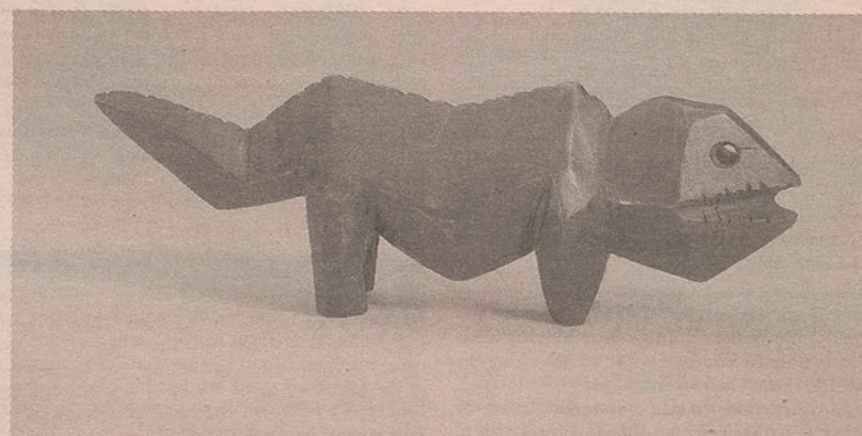


After

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galleries



Art of the Lega Congolesse culture

Leopard's-tooth jewelry, elegant plumes of elephant hair, and a scaly hat made of the skin of a pangolin—an animal suggesting a cross between a giant tadpole and a pineapple—draw the eye of a visitor to the U-M Museum of Art's *Art of the Lega* exhibit.

Filling the upstairs west wing with an opulence of carved wood, ivory, and animal materials, the Congolesse works on display aren't art for art's sake. Placards explain that the masks, figurines, carved animals, and tools are objects that regulate a multilayered social system. Used only during initiation rites, these objects function as teaching tools, each one representing multiple proverbs or parables. Divorced from this cultural context, the works seem mute.

They're also vulnerable to misinterpretation. One Western researcher interpreted a statue with a raised hand as appealing to a higher power. The exhibit's book-length catalog reveals that statues of this class, called *kasangala*, actually refer to solving community problems. The figures point to the sky to indicate the size of problems solved in the past.

In addition to the intrigue of hidden meaning, the works possess beauty. Rows of the pangolin's fingernail-sized triangular gray

scales mount the cone-shaped hat and sweep down in a narrow tail. Iridescent shells and pearly buttons twinkle at the sides and front.

Nearby, ivory spoons glow with mellow warmth. Their variously carved handles and bowls may have been polished to their rich gloss by years of handling, since many of the objects were passed down through generations. Most of the items on display, except for those decorated with Western buttons, are of unknown age.

One section of animal figures ranges from chunky lizards (above) to a four-footed creature with a masklike head. The works are arranged in fanlike arrays of cases projecting from the wall, like spokes that make the viewer the hub of the creatures' collective gaze.

In the final part of the show, the exhibit's turquoise walls darken to deep blue, and the viewer enters a dim room with a grid of twelve dramatically lit cases. One additional case to the side displays an exquisite eyeless white mask rendered in abstract curves. A placard explains that the test to reach the highest Lega level is simply to contemplate a display of artworks.

I sat on a nearby bench and watched visitors slowly wander through the labyrinth of cases, drawing their own conclusions.

Art of the Lega continues through Sunday, January 16.

—Laura Bien

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. *Teen ArtMakers; Abstract Figures in Altered Photography; American Institute of Architects Honor Awards Designs* (December 3–January 27). 327–4510.

Dave's Photo Emporium. *Another Look* (December 6–January 21). Reception 10 Friday, 7–9 p.m. 827–0080.

Dreamland Theater. *Creative Matter: A Spectacle of Local Art* (December 4–January 2). Reception 4 Saturday, 7 p.m. 657–2337.

EMU Ford Gallery. *Sculptures by Christine Hagedorn* (December 1–7). *Graphic Design by Mark Heisler* (December 8–14). *Paintings by Cathy Barry* (December 15–21). 487–1268.

Museum on Main Street. *Tables and Chairs* (December 1–February 20). 662–9092.

Rehill Gallery. *Madonna-and-Child Images* (December 18–January 6). 663–5503.

Riverside Arts Center. *Side Show: Mixed-Media Paintings by Amanda Miller* (December 10–22). Reception 11 Saturday, 2–5 p.m. 761–3661.

Tabor Hill. *New Works by Local Artists* (December 10–January 7). 622–9463.

U-M Museum of Art. *Art of the Lega: Meaning and Metaphor in Central Africa* (through January 16). See 5 Sunday and review, above. *The Enduring Art of the Korean Potter* (December 18–July 24). 763–UMMA.

U-M Pierpont Commons. *Abstract Expressions 2 by Shweta Parikh* (December 1–31). *Little by Little: An Exploration of Italian Beauty by Jessica Yurasek* (December 1–31). 764–7544.

U-M Residential College/East Quad Art Gallery. *Student Art* (December 17–20). 763–0176.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art). *A&D Faculty Works* (December 10–January 29). Reception 10 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 763–4417.

U-M Taubman College Gallery. *Subhankar Banerjee Photographs* (December 13–February 9). 764–1300.

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art). *After Tears and Displacement II* (December 6–11). 764–0397.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2004–2005 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

28–30. Robert Papineau and his **Pippin Puppets** present this hilarious family-oriented interactive holiday puppet show featuring dancing dolls and marching soldiers. 2–2:45 p.m., AADL Northeast (Dec. 28), West (Dec. 29), & Malletts Creek (Dec. 30) branches. Free. 327–4200.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Oakland. 7 p.m.,

Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.

"Crossroads Ceil": The Ark. See 27 Monday. 7:30 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. December 28–31 & January 5–8. Playwright and Purple Rose founder

Daniels, who, it turns out, is also a singer-songwriter, performs folk-flavored originals that may include such favorites as "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too," "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," "State Trooper," and "Recreational Vehicle," interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. Also, stories from Daniels's career in film. Mature audiences. A benefit for Purple Rose. 8 p.m., *Garage Theater*, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$50 (Dec. 28-30 and Jan. 5 & 6), \$60 (3 p.m. Dec. 31), \$75 (8 p.m. Dec. 31) in advance and at the door. 433-ROSE.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 7 Tuesday. 10 p.m.-midnight.

FILMS

MTF. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

29 WEDNESDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Delaware State. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 28 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

30 THURSDAY

*"Out with the Old, In with the New: Stories for All Ages": Ann Arbor District Library. With nationally award-winning local storyteller **Laura Pershin Raynor**. 10-10:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Illinois. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 28 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

31 FRIDAY (New Year's Eve)

U-M Men's Basketball vs. North Carolina-Asheville. 1 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764-0247.

Easy Street Swingtet: The Firefly Club. An early-bird New Year's Eve celebration featuring Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. The ticket price includes a buffet and a champagne toast. 4-7 p.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$15 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

*"Traveling New Year's Dinner Party Trek": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal leads a hike, 15 miles, following the river, with a stop at a picnic table for an elegant gourmet meal. Bring a snack, appetizer, dish, or dessert. Leave your car in Ypsilanti's Depot Town area or arrange to be picked up by friends after midnight. 5 p.m., meet at 120 Eighth St. Free. Reservations required. 369-3107.

"12th Annual New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. This festival usually draws about 2,500 visitors and features more than 2 dozen area favorites performing around Depot Town in Ypsilanti. At the *Riverside Arts Center*: comedy and mime by **Michael Lee and Opus Mime** (7-7:45 & 8-8:45 p.m.), comedy by **O. J. Anderson** (7:30-8:15 & 9:30-10:15 p.m.), Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano** (8:30-9:15 p.m.), and vocal music by the **Choral Connection** (9-9:45 & 10:15-11 p.m.). At *First Presbyterian Church*: storytelling by **LaRon Williams** (7-9 p.m.), portrait sketches by **Penny Kruse** (7:30-11 p.m.), opera by **Arbor Opera Theater** (7:30-9 p.m.), and jazz by a trio led by saxophonist **Paul VornHagen** (9:30-midnight). At *First United Methodist Church*: Celtic music and jazz by **Jeremy Kittel and Seth Bernard** (7-7:45 & 8-8:45 p.m.), dulcimer music by **Charlene Berry** (7-9 p.m.), folk blues and jazz by **Madcat and Kane** (9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.), and boogie-woogie and blues piano by **Mr. B** (9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.). At *St. Luke's*: balloons and face painting by **Lovely the Clown** and **Dan the Balloon Man** (7-10 p.m.), children's folk by **Gemini** (7-9 p.m.), comedy and magic by **Boyer & Fitzsimmons** (7-7:45 & 8-8:45 p.m.), and bluegrass by **Coupe de Grass** (9:15-10:30 p.m.). At the *Michigan Firehouse Museum*: folk by **Old Friends 4** (7-7:45 p.m.) and country by **Strings and Things** (8-10 p.m.). At the *Harrington Building*: West African Drum and Dance by **Like Water** (7:30-9 p.m.) and honky-tonk dance music by **George Be-dard and the Kingpins** (9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.). At the

Historical Museum: classical guitar by **Joseph Pratt** (7-10 p.m.). At the *Automotive Museum*: house-rocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock by the quintet the **Terraplanes** (7-10 p.m.). 6:30-1 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets \$20 (kids 6-16, \$5; 5 & under, free) in advance at *Busch's & the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor convention and visitors bureaus*, and at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483-4444 or 995-7281.

*"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. It is repeated at 11:30 a.m. on January 1. 7 p.m., *Zen Buddhist Temple*, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761-6520.

New Year's Eve Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Roger Diggle calls to music by Paul Winder and Pix 'n' Stix. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. 8 p.m.-midnight, *Pittsfield Grange*, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$15. 769-1052.

Ross Bennett: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Bennett is a rubber-faced comedian known for his bright, stylish, and fresh observational humor about a variety of matters, from growing up with a marine colonel for a father to his misadventures on the golf course. His routine about the kinship between TV preachers and professional wrestlers is regarded as a contemporary classic. Bennett's shows usually include a visit from his alter ego, **Eddy Strange**. One of Mainstreet's most durable attractions. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., *old VFW Hall* (below *Seva restaurant*), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets \$25 (8 p.m.) & \$30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 28 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

The Firefly Club. Performers TBA. The ticket price includes dinner, a champagne toast, and party favors. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$50 in advance and at the door. 665-9090.

New Year's Bash: Cavern Club. Dancing to soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by **Thornetta Davis**, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. Includes admission to the adjacent Millennium Club and Gotham City, which feature dancing to music by DJs. 9 p.m.-4 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), *Cavern Club*, 210 S. First. \$25 includes hors d'oeuvres & champagne toast. Reservations recommended. 332-9900, (800) 653-6466.

Saturday Looks Good to Me: Leopold Bros. Brewery. Eclectic local pop-rock band led by Fred Thomas, a versatile local singer-songwriter known for his moody indie pop. Opening acts are **The Great Lakes Myth Society**, a local folk-rock sextet (formerly known as the Original Brothers & Sisters of Love) whose music is an eclectic mix of Appalachian music, prog-rock, and sea shanties, and **The Book Was Better**, a local indie rock quartet. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), *Leopold Bros.* north parking lot, 523 S. Main. \$10 at the door only. 747-9806.

*"All Star Comedy Show": TC's Speakeasy. Performances by several Detroit-area comics, including **Shelly Smith**, **Russ Brown**, **Dave Pate**, **Mike Kosta**, and **Brian Cook**. Hosted by **John O'Donnell**. 30-minute comedy sets are followed by 30 minutes of music by a DJ. Party favors. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. or later, *TC's*, 207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. Free. 483-4470.

The Bang!: The Blind Pig. Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. Opening acts are the garage rock bands **Esquire** and **The Hard Lessons**. 10 p.m.-4 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), *The Blind Pig*, 208 S. First. \$15 at the door only. 996-8555.

Todd Snider: The Ark. Best known for his hilarious 1994 single "Alright Guy," this folk-rock singer-songwriter from Memphis has a sharp ear for colloquial speech and an alternately grim or whimsical sense of humor, and he likes to write about last-chance romances, street-corner losers, and other phenomena on the alluringly dark margins of everyday life. The Ark calls him "the witty, goofy, and tender poet of happy hour across America." 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$25 (includes champagne toast & party favors) in advance at *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The X Show": Improv Inferno. See 3 Friday. Mid-night.

FILMS

MTF. "Kinsey" (Bill Condon, 2004). See 17 Friday. Mich., times TBA.



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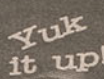
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The Ark

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Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover, no dancing. All shows begin at 8 p.m. (Sun., 7:30 p.m.) unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 1: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. The first 12 acts to sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. get to perform. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Dec. 2: Joe Jencks, Jen Cass, & Justin Roth.** In-the-round performances by 3 young singer-songwriters. See Events. **Dec. 3: RFD Boys.** Popular local bluegrass quartet. Opening act is **Lare Williams & New Direction**, a bluegrass band from western Michigan. See Events. **Dec. 4: Don White.** Massachusetts singer-songwriter. Opening act is the local acoustic duo **Mustard's Retreat**. See Events. **Dec. 5: Over the Rhine.** Artful rock 'n' roll quartet from Cincinnati. Opening act is singer-songwriter **Griffin House**. See Events. **Dec. 7: Charlie Robison.** Fast-rising Texas singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 8: Kris Delmhurst.** Up-and-coming New England singer-songwriter. Opening act is singer-songwriter **Mark Erelli**. See Events. **Dec. 9: Jane Siberry.** Art-rock singer-songwriter. Opening act is singer-songwriter **Adrienne Pierce**. See Events. **Dec. 10: Joel Mabus.** Multi-instrumental folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 11: Juliana Hatfield.** Rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 14: NoMo.** A mix of Afrobeat with postbop jazz by this local 16-piece ensemble. See Events. **Dec. 15: Open Stage.** See above. **Dec. 17: Finvarra's Wren.** Celtic music by this local ensemble. See Events. **Dec. 18: Maura O'Connell.** Irish American chanteuse. See Events. **Dec. 19: Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace.** Benefit performance by this collective of several top-notch local singer-songwriters and bands. **Dec. 27 & 28: "Crossroads Ceili."** An evening of Irish music and dance. See Events. **Dec. 31: Todd Snider.** Folk-rock singer-songwriter from Memphis. See Events.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 1: Pocket.** Local rock quartet. **Dec. 2: Hairy Drain Babies.** Local punk-rock band. Opening act is **The Teeth**, a local band that plays arty, angular punk. **Dec. 3: Ekoostik Hookah.** Acoustic, country-flavored neohippie dance band from Columbus, Ohio. See Events. **Dec. 4: Jamie Register Project.** Motownesque soul music by a band led by local singer-bassist Register. Opening acts are DJ **Scott Brandon** and DJ **Steakhouse**. **Dec. 8: Downtown Brown.** Ypsilanti jam band. Opening acts are **The Damn Bandits**, a local rock band, and **The Potions**, a Canton rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 9: Jordan Knight.** Dance-pop by this former New Kids on the Block lead singer. Opening act is **JagStar**. See Events. **Dec. 10: Tally Hall.** Arty pop by this local band. Opening acts are the local ska band **May or May Not** (formerly known as Donkey Punch), the Dearborn techno-pop band **Otto Vector**, and **Citygoat** (see TC's Speakeasy). **Dec. 11: The Riots.** Local retro punk band. Opening acts are **The Muggs**, a Downriver band that plays straight-ahead rock 'n' roll, and **Hard Lessons**, a local roots-rock band. **Dec. 15: Elzhi.** Solo performance by this rapper from the Detroit hip-hop ensemble **Slum Village**. Opening acts are **Nick Speed**, a hip-hop MC, and **DJ Houseshoes**, a hip-hop DJ. **Dec. 16: Reverend Horton Heat.** Acclaimed postpunk rockabilly by a trio led by this singer-guitarist from Texas. See Events. **Dec. 17: Cloud Nine Music.** Highly regarded funk-rock instrumental-oriented party band from Jackson featuring the deep, raspy vocals

Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings

Authentically exuberant

At the start of every show that Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings play, a small glass piggy bank hangs from pianist and music director James Dapogny's mike stand. Many jazz bands of the 1920s and 1930s displayed a similar pig. The idea, Dapogny explains, is that "whoever made the last mistake had to ask for the pig, put some money into it, and have it hanging from his or her music stand as a badge of shame and dishonor, for having blemished an otherwise perfect sound."

It's a small touch, but it indicates the lengths to which P.O.R.K. will go for authenticity. More significant, the ten-piece band duplicates the standard instrumentation of the early jazz big bands, plays mostly unamplified as they did, and even reads the same arrangements those bands played in ballrooms and on recordings.

But authenticity is not all P.O.R.K. is after. Sure, these musicians play with scholarly accuracy, but this was exuberant, lighthearted dance music, and P.O.R.K. really swings with that spirit. Formed four years ago, with a steady gig early Sunday evenings at the Firefly Club and concerts at many other venues and festivals, P.O.R.K. is finally releasing its first CD. We'll now be able to enjoy, whenever we want, the sounds to which our great-grandparents danced the fox-trot and the Charleston in the Roaring Twenties.

The CD kicks off with the title track, "Rhythm Club," the only tune not from the period. It's a Dapogny original, but I defy anyone who isn't a musicologist to distinguish it from the standards of the day. Dapogny's ex-



pert hands—playing and arranging—are evident throughout the recording, as is his encyclopedic knowledge of the music of this era.

There are numerous inventive, inspired solos here, and even some wonderful singing: check out Gene Bartley's velvet vocal on "If I Had You" or Dapogny's convincing blues gospel shouting on "Lawd, Lawd." But what stands out is the impeccable ensemble work. The reed trio of Andrew Bishop, Tom Bogardus, and Mike Jones, each playing clarinet and saxes, combined with the brass trio of Paul Finkbeiner and Ingrid Racine on trumpet and Gene Bartley on trombone, gives P.O.R.K. an enormous range of tonal colors and an ever-changing yet unified sound.

Chris Smith on tuba and Rod McDonald on guitar and banjo solo on only one cut—highlighting both how good they are and how perfectly they play their roles in the rhythm section the rest of the time. And Steve Fentriss, who is not yet old enough to buy a drink in any of the clubs in which P.O.R.K. appears, plays his kit like the reincarnation of Gene Krupa.

Until recently, most of this music has been available only on scratchy old seventy-eights. It always was great music, but the old recordings didn't sound like it. P.O.R.K., on *Rhythm Club*, sounds like it.

—Sandor Slomovits

of bassist Jamie Register. **Dec. 18: Scott Morgan's Powertrane.** 60s-style Detroit rock 'n' roll quartet led by veteran local singer-songwriter Morgan. See Events. **Dec. 19: Perry Robinson and Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band.** Award-winning jazz clarinetist Robinson joins this local worldbeat ensemble led by percussionist Muruga Booker. See Events. **Dec. 23: Dropjaw.** Melodic Ypsilanti emcore band. Opening acts are the Flint hard-rock band **Capone**, **Median** (see Club Above), **Fifth** (see Club Above), and the local college rock band **Killdrama**. **Dec. 29: The Nijas.** Local ska band. Opening acts are **The Swellers**, a Flint punk-rock band, and **The Hot Flashez**, a horn-driven Flint rock band. **Dec. 30: TBA.** **Dec. 31: The Bang!** DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. With the garage rock bands **Esquire** and **The Hard Lessons**. See Events.

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main 662-8650

This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Underground Jazz Quartet.** This local jazz quartet plays a mix of standards, blues, contemporary pieces, and originals, with an emphasis on Hammond B-3 styles of the likes of Jimmy Smith, Larry Young, and Jack McDuff. Members are guitarist Tom Sinas, organist Duncan McMillian, alto saxophonist Dean Moore, and drummer Jordan Young.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890

This downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Millennium Club, features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Millennium Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Dec. 3 (6-9 p.m.): Jim Tate Band.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-guitarist Tate, a longtime local favorite. The

band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. The lineup of local veterans includes bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and guitarist Danny McIntire. **Dec. 4: Jace'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Jace'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." **Dec. 10: Robb Roy.** Guitar-based modern-rock originals by this Dearborn quartet that has released 3 CDs. **Dec. 11: Killer Flamigos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne. **Dec. 17: Starfarm.** 70s, 80s, 90s, and contemporary rock covers by this East Lansing quintet led by vocalist Andrea Bingham and singer-guitarist Dan Malnar. **Dec. 18: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Bash."** With an R&B band led by **Thornetta Davis**. See Events.

Circus Bar & Billiards

210 S. First St. 913-8890

New bar on the 2nd floor of the building that houses the Cavern Club. Live music occasional Friday happy hours, 6-9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 10 & 17: Jim Tate Trio.** A wide range of danceable American roots music, including classic and obscure country, rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk, by this veteran local trio led by vocalist Tate. With bassist Chris Goerke and guitarist Danny McIntire.

Club Above

215 N. Main 663-7758

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg Restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.-Sun., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, comedy on Tues. (see Events), and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Miguel plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records.

Also, salsa lessons, 9-10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Rigatation Night.** DJ X-Cess spins hip-hop and reggae records. **Dec. 2: Oblivion.** Local alternative-rock band. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 4: Median.** Local alternative-rock band. Opening act is **Fith**, a local postpunk hard-rock band. **Dec. 9: Cerulean.** Local college rock band. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 11: Sparklemotion.** Local quintet that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk originals. Opening act is **The Robyn Horlock Band**, a Detroit pop-rock band. **Dec. 16: The Midnight Special.** Local blues-rock band. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 18: Pocket.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 30: Closed.** **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Salsa Dancing Night."** With DJ Miguel. Also, dance lessons.

Club Bedrocks

2900 Jackson Rd. 665-4444

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** DJs play Latin dance music.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30-10 p.m.) and Tues. & Thurs. and occasional other nights (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Dec. 1: TBA.** **Dec. 2: Rob Bugar.** Folk-rock singer-guitarist. **Dec. 7: Busstop.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 8: Hummingbirds.** Rock 'n' roll band led by singer-guitarist S. G. Wood. **Dec. 9: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 14: Rob Bugar.** See above. **Dec. 15: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues band. **Dec. 16 & 21: Deron 5L.** Southern-flavored alternative rock by this Detroit band. **Dec. 22: Mossy Moran.** See above. **Dec. 23: TBA.** **Dec. 28: John & Mike Bugar.** This local alternative-rock duo performs



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NIGHTSPOTS *continued*

covers by everyone from Dave Matthews to Coldplay. **Dec. 29: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. Hosted by singer-guitarist **S. G. Wood.** **Dec. 30: Busstop.** See Goodnite Gracie.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. **Dec. 3: The Ambitious Brothers.** Local trio that plays bluegrass originals with 3-part vocal harmonies. **Dec. 4: Dumb and Ugly Club.** Folk-style acoustic postpunk by the duo of U-M students Gina Pensiero and Michael Beauchamp. **Dec. 10: FUBAR.** See Old Town. **Dec. 11: Lisa Hunter.** Funky, melodic folk-based pop-rock sung in a sharp, clear voice by this nationally known local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 17: Annie Capps.** Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs. She has released 2 CDs, including the recent *Not So Sure*. **Dec. 18: Shelley Miller and Jeffrey Altergott.** In-the-round performances by Chicago alt-folk singer-songwriter Miller and Columbus, Ohio, folk-rock singer-songwriter Altergott. **Dec. 31:** Closed.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.-Sat., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillian.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon., Wed., Thurs., and occasional other weeknights, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "House Night."** With DJ Brian Roy. **Every Wed.: DJ Chuck.** DJ who plays everything from garage and glam to punk and contemporary rock. **Dec. 2: Escaping Silence.** Ypsilanti alternative rock trio. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 3: Zach Broocke.** Nashville-based Americana pop-rock singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Scattered Light**, a folk-rock noise band, and **Brian Deer**, a roots-rock singer-songwriter from Indianapolis. **Dec. 4: The Smashbandits.** Pontiac hardcore band. Opening

acts are the Texas postpunk rockabilly bands **The Von Ehrics** and **Slick 57**, and **Sun Spot.** **Dec. 9: Dave Unger.** Anthemic roots-oriented pop-rock by this former Love 666 frontman. Opening acts are **Two Tone Radio**, a Detroit rock band, and **Victory Gin**, a rock band featuring former members of the Terranauts. **Dec. 10: Seismic 3.** Pop-rock band. Opening acts are the pop-rock band **Gag Order**, the rock 'n' roll band **Morphic**, and the local rock 'n' roll band **Red Edison.** **Dec. 11: Lobby.** Local alternative rock band. Opening acts are **KK Dirty Money & Las Drogas**, an Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic surf-guitar rockabilly blues, and **Freaks of Frequency**, a jam band. **Dec. 12: Islero.** Popular Minneapolis rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Aviette**, a Minneapolis indie pop band, and **Crush Kill Destroy**, a Chicago postpunk rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 12: Blackfire Revelation.** Postpunk rock 'n' roll band from New Orleans. Opening act is **Preston Woodward**, a veteran Ann Arbor-Detroit punk vocalist who tonight performs traditional German and Scots ballads of magic and murder, accompanying himself on baritone-tenor English concertina and drums. **Dec. 17: Troy Gregory & the Stepsisters.** All-female rock trio fronted by Detroit singer-songwriter Gregory. Opening acts are the local all-female rock band **The Scars**, the Chicago retro rock band **Tele-novela**, and **Mr. Largebeat**, a big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion. **Dec. 18: Spit for Athena.** Popular Coldwater punk trio. Opening acts are the Lansing rock band **Putty**, the Indiana band **Ari.ari**, and the Bay City indie rock band **Our Space in Time.** **Dec. 23: TBA.** **Dec. 30: Hudson Falcons.** Working-class punk-rock band from New Jersey. Opening act is **The Bump-n-Uglies**, a Dearborn punk-rock band. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

Espresso Royale Caffe

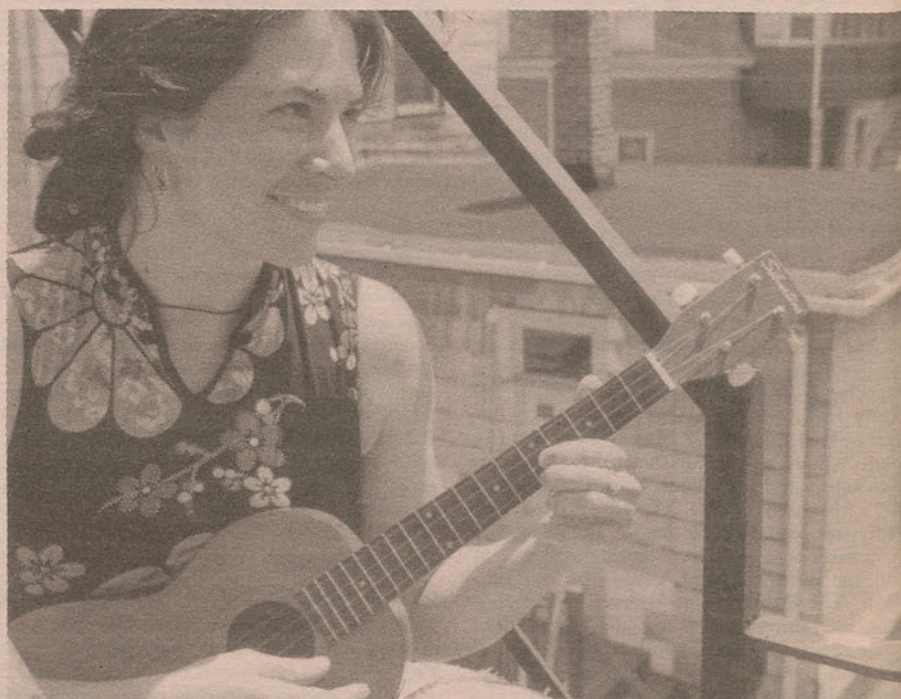
214 S. Main 668-1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9-11 p.m. **Dec. 4: Sari Brown.** See Portofino. **Dec. 11: North.** Local semiacoustic folk-rock trio that has released a CD, *Revolutions*. **Dec. 18: Jimmy DeHeno.** Country-rock and blues originals and covers by this singer-songwriter, a veteran guitar teacher from Marine City who performs fingerstyle.

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley 665-9090

Jazz and blues club that was recently named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon., occasional Tues., Wed., & Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m., & Sun., 8:30-12:30 p.m. Also, happy-hour music Sun., 5-8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri. (5:30-8 p.m.): Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun. (5-8 p.m.): Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** See review, p. 107. This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the



Boston-based rising star pop-folk singer-songwriter Kris Delmhorst accompanies her singing with cello, piano, and guitar at the Ark Dec. 8.

late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 9): **Los Gatos.** Mambo and cha-cha by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahne, pianist Brian Di-Blassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded by beginning (6:15 p.m.) and intermediate (7 p.m.) Latin dance lessons (\$5 includes cover for the band). **Dec. 3: The Keller-Kocher Quartet.** Mainstream jazz by this top-notch local quartet featuring bassist Paul Keller, vibes player Cary Kocher, pianist Phil Kelly, and drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 4: Benny Golson.** Celebrated postbop saxophonist. See Events. 8 & 10 p.m. **Dec. 5: TBA. Dec. 7: Jazz ensemble TBA. Dec. 9: Bill Heid Trio.** Jazz trio led by veteran pianist Heid. See Events. **Dec. 11: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs. **Dec. 12: U-M Jazz Jam Session.** Jam session hosted by U-M jazz students. All musicians invited. **Dec. 14: Jazzistry.** Swinging jazz ensemble led by local saxophonist and flutist Vincent York and featuring pianist Alma Smith and guitarist Ron English. **Dec. 17: Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxophonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Lenny Gilpatrick. **Dec. 18: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See Habitat. **Dec. 19: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Dec. 26: TBA. Dec. 27: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

Frenchie's Jazz Club

54 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-5230
This Depot Town club affiliated with the adjacent Sidetrack Cafe features occasional live music, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 623-2070
Martini and cigar bar connected to D'Amato's restaurant. Live jazz Wed.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues.: "Deep-Chilled House & Techno."** With DJ R. Elliot. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 3: Nick Strange Trio.** Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band. **Dec. 4: Odessa Harris.** This dynamic Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **Dec. 10: Terraplanes.** See Firefly. **Dec. 11: Busstop.** Smart, playful rock 'n' roll with a funky R&B edge by this local band fronted by Julia Ingalls whose repertoire ranges from vintage Stevie Wonder and Steely Dan to Cheryl Crow, along with some originals. **Dec. 17: Sparklemotion.** See Club Above. **Dec. 18: Tumbao.** Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VomHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. The band recently released its debut CD, *Montuno Salad*. **Dec. 31: TBA.**

Gotham City

210 S. First St. 913-8890
This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Millennium Club, features DJs on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern and Millennium clubs), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: House Night.** With DJ J Smooth.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636
Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6-9 p.m.) by Adam Riccinto (Tues.-Fri.) and Tom Knapp (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Miguel White. 7 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 1 & 2: Hot Ice.** Dance band that plays Motown covers. **Dec. 3 & 4: Nite Flight.** Local reggae and calypso band. **Dec. 7-9: Slice.** East Lansing pop dance band. **Dec. 10 & 11: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 14-16: Almost Anonymous.** Top 40 dance band. **Dec. 17 & 18: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Dec. 21-23 & 28-31: No Romance.** Hard-rocking college pop cover band from East Lansing featuring former members of Soulstice.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764-7544
Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 8: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. 8-10 p.m.

Millennium Club

210 S. First St. 913-8890
This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Gotham City club, features DJs Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Techno Nite.** With DJ Mad Maxx.

Mitch's Place

1301 South University 665-2650
This bar and grill features live music Tues. & frequent other nights, 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Cover, some dancing. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague.** Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

The Necto

510 E. Liberty 994-5436
This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.-Wed., 10 p.m.-2 a.m., & Thurs.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.-Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, synth pop, and New Romantic records. **Every Tues.: "Retro."** Deejays DJ Marquee & Scott Brandon play 70s disco, 80s New Wave, and 90s techno and house dance classics. **Every Wed.: "Popular."** Cutting-edge electronic and rock dance music with DJ Scott Brandon and guest DJs and live performers TBA. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Binzo spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJ Timmy D spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and DJ Blur spinning pop, retro, and R&B in the downstairs Red Room. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the red room DJ Marquee plays a variety of retro party music.

Northfield Roadhouse

50 E. North Territorial at Whitmore Lake Rd. 327-3693
This new tavern features live music Wed., 8-11 p.m.; Fri & Sat., 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.; & Sun., 5:30-9:30 p.m. Also, acoustic blues singer-guitarists during happy hour on Fri., 5:30-8 p.m. **Every Sun.: The Nairobi Trio.** Blues band led by vocalist and blues harpist Chef Chris. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by veteran singer-guitarist Michael Katon. All blues musicians invited. **Every Fri. (5:30-8 p.m.): Michael Katon.** Blues and blues-rock by this veteran singer-guitarist. **Dec. 3: Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show*, plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." **Dec. 4: Wixom Slim.** Ann Arbor-area band that plays a variety of swing and jump blues styles. **Dec. 10: Michael Katon Band.** Southern blues-rock band led by veteran local singer/guitarist Katon. **Dec. 11: The Nairobi Trio.** See above. **Dec. 17: Shirley Franklin & Delta Drive.** Detroit-area Chicago-style blues quintet led by vocalist Franklin. **Dec. 18: Michael Katon Band.** See above. **Dec. 31: TBA.**



Highly regarded Minnesota singer-songwriter Justin Roth, who wowed the crowd when he opened for John Gorka last year, delivers his catchy and clever lyrics at the Ark Dec. 2.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 662-9291
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 5: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. **Dec. 12: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local singer-songwriter best known through his blues-rock alter ego Nick Strange. **Dec. 19: Sean Ike.** Original songs by the lead singer of the Detroit funk-soul band Elevations. **Dec. 26: TBA.**

Oz

210 S. Fifth Ave. 222-4770
New nightclub located in the former Ann Arbor Theater. DJs or live music Tues. & Wed., 8 p.m.-2 a.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.-4 a.m.; & occasional Sun., 6 p.m.-midnight. Cover (except Tues.) after 11 p.m., dancing. **Every Tues.: Jazz.** With live bands TBA. **Every Wed.: Hip-Hop & Reggae.** With DJs TBA. **Every Thurs.: Top 40 Night.** With DJs TBA. **Every Fri.: International Night.** Arabic, Indian, and hip-hop music with DJ Fares. Also, a belly dancing show at midnight. **Every Sat.: Hip-Hop and Old Skool.** With DJ Fares.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662-8283
This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most nights of the week, 7:30-9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Dec. 7: "Songwriters Open Stage."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 14: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Dec. 21: "Acoustic Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Dave Guimond. **Dec. 28: "Songwriter Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Mickey Richard.

Portofino's

2550 W. Stadium 222-6066
This new coffeeshop features live music Fri., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 3: Bruce Bale.** Veteran local singer-songwriter known for his driving guitar grooves, smooth steely voice, and passionate, witty lyrics. **Dec. 10: Sari Brown.** Talented young local singer-songwriter who writes folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Dec. 17: Opening act is Uses for Wood,** the upbeat local folk, blues, and Americana duo of Colin Murphy and Gannon Alexander, who accompany themselves on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and other wooden instruments. They are joined tonight by Lucciana Costa, a local alt-country and roots-music singer-songwriter who accompanies herself on Dobro.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996-2747
This campus-area club features DJs Mon., Wed.-Sat., 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon. & Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Wed.: "High Energy Dance Party."** With DJ John King. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Supermack.** Techno music with DJs from Supermack Productions.

Scorekeepers Sports Bar & Grill

310 Maynard 995-0100
DJs on Tues. & Thurs., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Tues.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by the Master Tones, a local blues band. All blues musicians and vocalists invited. **Every Thurs.-Sat.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. 302-3687
This dinner club features DJs Wed.-Sun., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover (women admitted free on Fri. before 11 p.m.), dancing. Age 18 & older (Wed.) & 21 & older (Thurs.-Sun.) admitted. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: DJs play dance music TBA.** **Every Fri.: "International Dance Party."** With DJ C4. **Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night."** With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck. **Every Sun.: "Hip-Hop and Reggae Night."** With a DJ TBA.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470
This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features a jam session on Mon., karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., open mike on Thurs., and DJs or dance bands on Fri. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.). Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: Reggae.** Old and new reggae records with One Root Sound DJ Selector Joshua. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. Hosted by the local pop-folk jam band Citygoat. **Every Wed.: "College Remix."** With DJ Major. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** Hosted by Rootstand frontman Brant. All musicians invited. **Dec. 3: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See Habitat. **Dec. 10: Witch Doctors.** See Northfield Roadhouse. **Dec. 17: Citygoat.** See above. **Dec. 24: "Christmas Carol Sing-Along."** With pianist Robert Moses. **Dec. 31: "All Star Comedy Show."** With several Detroit-area stand-up comics. See Events.

Touchdown Cafe

1220 South University 665-7777
This campus-area cafe features music Wed.-Fri., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.



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Congratulations!

PERSONALS "AD OF THE MONTH"

Personals ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for **dinner for two at the Earle and coffee and dessert for two at Espresso Royale Caffe.**



women seeking men

Active equestrian, found on rural roads or in woods/fields, ISO NS, ND, middle-aged man who enjoys outdoors, animals, and being silly sometimes. #5388



the earle
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personals

Personals Key

A=Asian	L=Letters
B=Black	LTR=Long Term Relationship
C=Christian	M=Male
D=Divorced	ND=Nondrinker
F=Female	NS=Nonsmoker
G=Gay	☎=Phone Calls
H=Hispanic	P=Professional
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	S=Single
ISO=In Search Of	W=White
J=Jewish	

SWCF. Not exactly how I pictured things. European beauty, 36, brown hair, green eyes, 5'7", 130. Seeking a man who is 6'+, fit, without dependents. ☎5250

men seeking women

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

Warm and passionate **SWM** entrepreneur desires SF to share conversations, walks, and my cooking. Are you 30-45, active, amusing, and deserve more in life? ☎5409

SWM, NS, 42, 185 lbs., 5'11", good-looking, likes most movies, the outdoors, music, dancing, quiet time. Loves family. ISO SF with similar likes for LTR. ☎5408

Seeking fit, educated, realistic, optimistic, emotionally available **SWF** to share happy, healthy relationship. **SWPM**, 48, 5'8", with no dependents. ☎5406

SWPM, 5'11", 48, very fit, enjoys all of the fun cultural activities Ann Arbor has to offer as well as tennis, bookstores, travel, outdoors, and creative writing. ☎5347

Adventurous, tall, aquatic, very romantic Pisces **SWM** over 40, excellent health, fit, secure, very handsome. ISO an interesting, fun, loving **SWF** with a warm heart, bright mind, sexy figure, energetic personality. Love candle-lit dinners, fire-side whispers, bubble baths, passionate, romantic nights, mornings, and afternoons. . . . If you call today we'll chat tonight. ☎5407

Yeah, I know, your friends are making you do this, you never answer personal ads, you don't watch TV, you never go to bars, you hate the dating scene, you love to read and see foreign movies, and Bush is the devil. Vote for me—**SWM**, trim, 43, ☎5389

SWM, physically fit, NS, intelligent, honest, accommodating. Enjoys books, movies, travel. ISO similar **SWF**, compatible, attractive, approximately 45-60. ☎2918

Capricorn **SWM**, 5'10", 53, ISO Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces, Taurus, Virgo, or Capricorn **SF** for a deep and profound LTR. ☎5393

Iconoclastic nature lover, 65, tall, fit, retired biologist, recent widower, seeks attractive, intelligent, athletic woman, 45-55, to share my canoe and heart. ☎5392

SM looking for love with a S or DF, 18-50. Kids OK. Doesn't matter what you look like. I like sports, movies, eating out, and going for coffee. ☎5374

DWM, 67 years young, 190 lbs., 5'11". Attractive, home-centered, enjoys music, nature, gardening, spirituality. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5385

SWM, young 47, a spiritual, liberal, humorous educator turned carpenter and musician seeks child-free, NS, ND woman, 30-50. Also ISO LTR. Friends first. ☎5384

DWM, 50, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children, Ph.D. scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. ☎4486

Educated, fit, **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39-47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031

general personals

Want to meet **GREAT** single professionals? Go on **EIGHT** dates in **ONE** night! www.8MinuteDating.com.

ANN ARBOR JAYCEES

If you are a 21-40 year old looking to meet new people, give back to the community, build and improve leadership skills, and try new things, then the Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you! We offer something for everyone and we have fun doing it. Visit our website www.a2jaycees.org for our calendar of events or call (734) 913-9629.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB

You don't have to ski to be a member! The AASC is a "4 season" social and sports club for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 600 members! Upcoming events: 12/2 General Meeting/Dance at Cobblestone Farm; 12/10 Night Out on the Town; and 12/16 Holiday Party/Dance at Cobblestone Farm. Check our website for upcoming ski trips. For more info on events, including sign-up procedures, consult the Club Hotline (734) 761-3419. www.a2skiclub.org.

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-4950; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

women seeking women

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

WPF, 37, searching for friend/potential mate. ISO 30-45 year old, educated woman with good sense of humor who enjoys golf, tennis, reading, and eating out. ☎5404

men seeking men

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

friendships

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 226-8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
\$1.95/min.

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

Spiritual **SWF** seeks like-minded new friends, any age or gender, to form group to manifest our dreams, heal the earth, develop higher consciousness. ☎5381

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

To Respond by Phone, Call 1-900-226-8978

Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are valid only for the month they appear in print.

You must be 18 or older.
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Or to Respond by Phone Using a Credit Card, Call 1-888-718-4827

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail

Responses are forwarded for \$3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for \$3 per response made payable to: Ann Arbor Observer • 201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Place your FREE Ann Arbor Observer Personals ad Today!

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For singles who use the Personals Call voice-mail system, additional lines are \$7 each. Ads that indicate a preference for letters, or those under the "General" heading, cost \$7 per line for the entire ad.

Observer Personals Ads are also posted on
www.arborweb.com

Please call with any questions or comments:

(734) 769-3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Love is in the air!

Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on WAAM 1600AM, listen for the Personals Ads of the Week from WAAM's Lucy Ann Lance and the Ann Arbor Observer's Melanie Ballance.

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I SPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p.127? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor*. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, Dec. 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-4950; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

entertainment

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lessons & workshops

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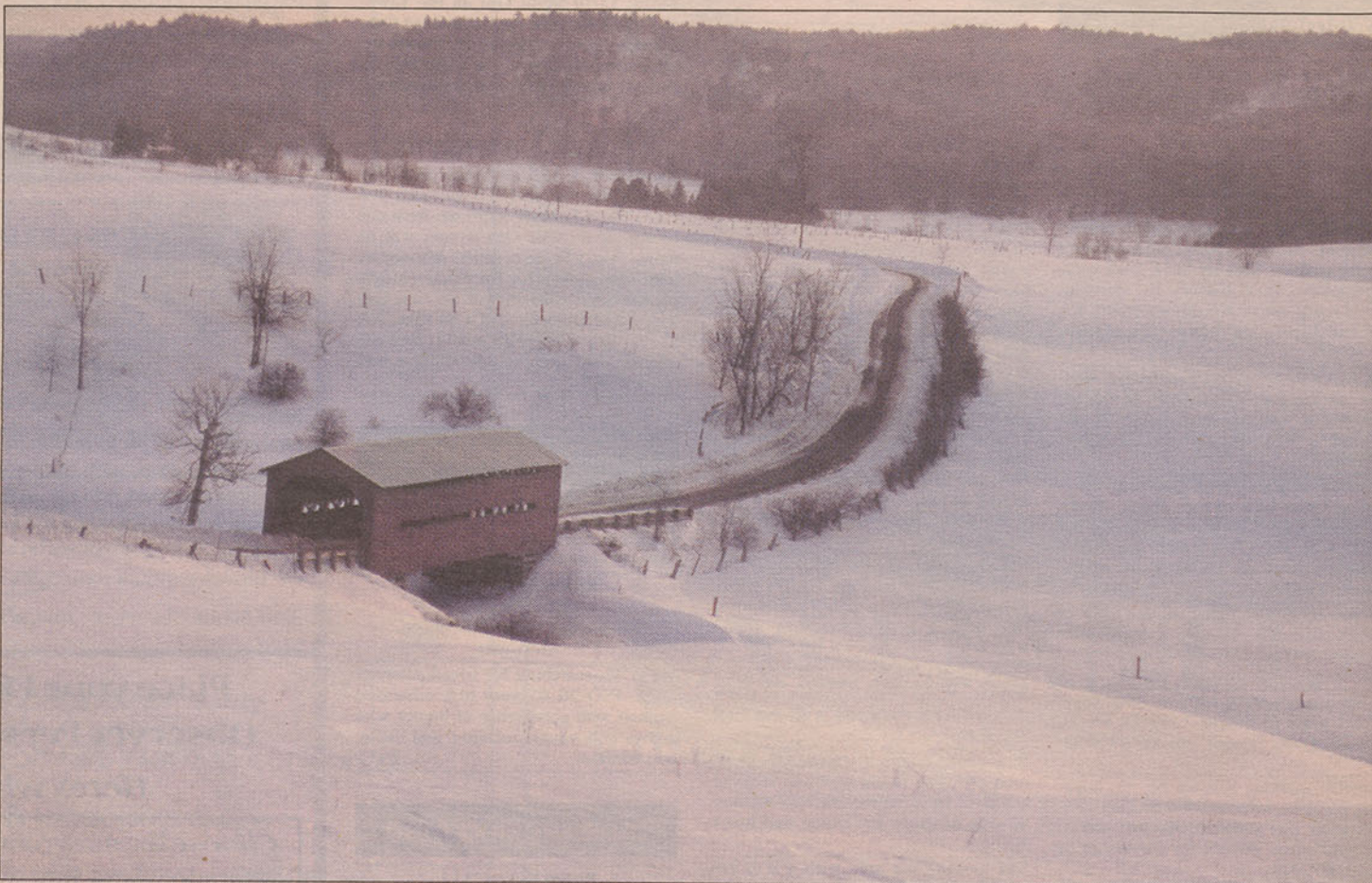
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miscellaneous

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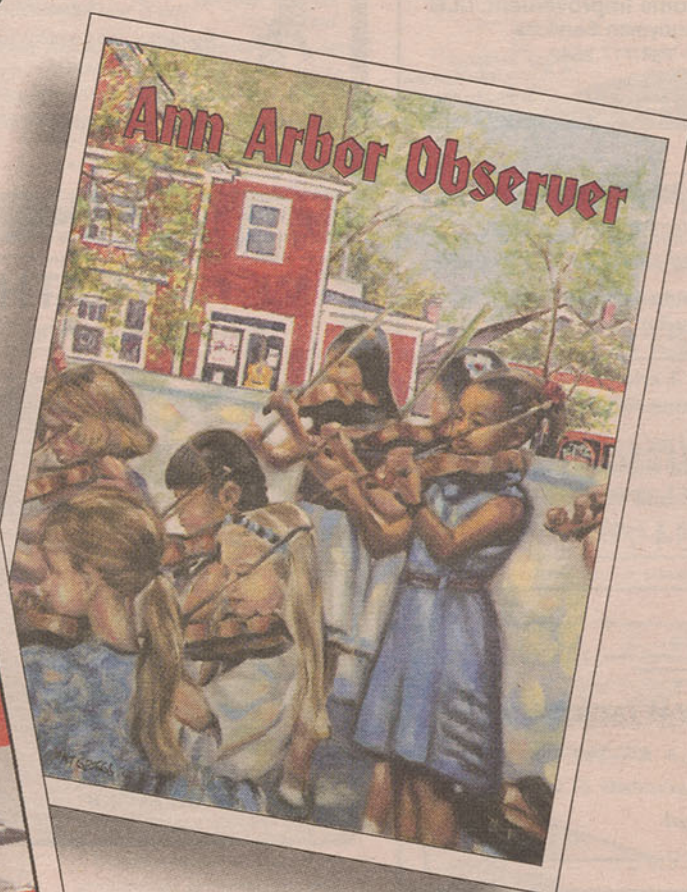
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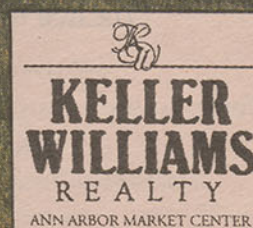
Real Estate

GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties



Cover listing by:



Reinhart Reinhart Reinhart Reinhart Rei



Ann Arbor 6180 First St. Stunning, new 5,000 sq. ft. contemporary on 3 acres. 4 bedrooms, 3.1 baths, 5 decks, dock and pond. Over 400 ft. on the Huron River. \$1,475,000. #2401875



Ann Arbor 3113 Miller. Stately southern style home. Open plan, private rooms, 3,600 sq. ft., 1st floor master suite, rich finishes, covered porches, patios, decks. On 2.7 acres. \$765,000. #2404654



Ann Arbor 3221 Heather. Brick 5-6 bedroom, 6,800 sq. ft. home on golf course. Expansive plan, cherry study, walk-out with exercise room, sauna, stone patio with built-in grill and spa. \$1,650,000. #2406246



Dexter 9875 Jackson Rd. Centennial farm. Updated 4 bedroom with 3 ceramic baths, hardwood floors and fireplace. Separate cottage, 2 barns with newer roofs and stone foundation. Rolling property. \$549,000. #2411797



Ann Arbor 3967 Delhi Glen Lane. Unequaled "mountain lodge" feel built by Christian Tennant. 9,400 sq. ft. includes 6 bedrooms, 7.1 baths, 2 studies, wine cellar, theater, sauna and exercise room. \$2,820,000. #2401422



Ann Arbor 815 Oakdale. Alden Dow characteristics, designed by a student. Custom 3,100 sq. ft., classic 1950's home. Open plan with wood vaulted ceilings and windows everywhere! Wooded 1.5ac. \$725,000. #2411062



Dexter 3824 Preserve. Hampton style with cedar shake/stone. 2004 showcase new construction by Holley Development. Covered porches, 4 bedroom, study, finest details. Hilltop view of 2 lakes. \$927,000. #2404313

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On the Cover: Spectacular amenities abound in this house in the Preserve, an exclusive enclave in Scio Township. Situated on 1 1/4 acres overlooking small lakes, the 6,095-sq.-ft. home features 5 bedrooms; 4 1/2 baths; a study; formal living and dining rooms; a gourmet cherry, granite, hardwood, and stainless kitchen; and a family room with a wall of windows. The 6-car garage includes a heated workshop, and the walkout basement has a second family room with a fireplace, a kitchenette, and a full bath.

Keller Williams Realty. \$899,000.

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Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

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Circulation: 68,500

The Real Estate Guide is inserted in 63,000 copies of the Ann Arbor Observer. 5,000 copies are distributed as a separate publication at locations throughout Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

Advertising Information

Telephone: (734) 769-3175

Fax: (734) 769-3375

Ann Arbor Observer

201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

A publication of the

Ann Arbor Observer

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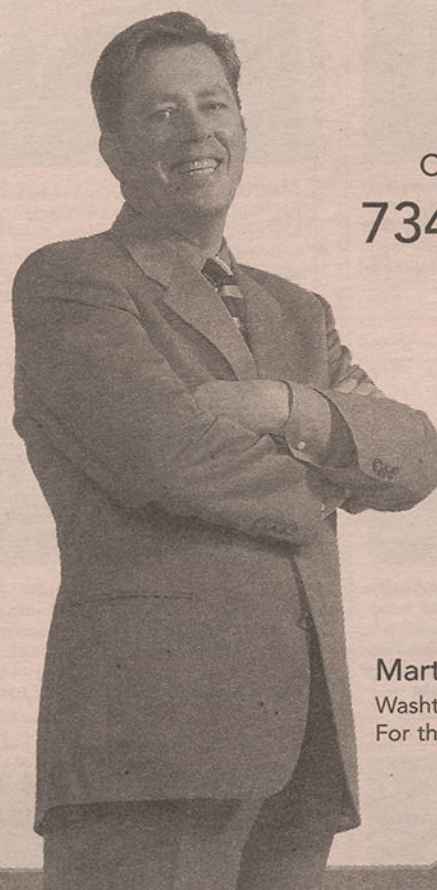
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SALINE - Spectacular estate property featuring 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built southern colonial on 4 1/2 stunning acres. This is one of the finest homes available with all brick exterior, granite kitchen, extensive hardwood floor and custom moldings, 6-car garage, and every detail you would expect. \$997,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



TRAVIS POINTE - Incredible custom-designed home under construction in one of the area's most sought-after communities. Contemporary lines with all the features you'd expect including custom kitchen, raised ceilings, lots of windows, huge master suite, and all the high-end finishes you would expect. \$850,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GLENNBOROUGH - Harris Homes presents this outstanding 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on a spectacular walkout site in Glennborough. Perfect traditional design with 2-story foyer, den, family room with 11' ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional appliances, and dream master suite. \$825,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Spectacular 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath Harris-built home overlooking the #2 fairway at Stonebridge. Gracious home loaded with features and amenities. Two-story foyer and family room, maple floors and kitchen, 9' ceilings, luxury master suite, and full finished basement. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Incredible secluded estate-type property backing to the Saline River. Gracious colonial design loaded with custom features and amenities. Two-story foyer, 9' first-floor ceilings, oversized family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$559,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SAGINAW HILLS - This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home is a contemporary lover's dream. Spacious 1.1-acre lot is extensively landscaped and very private. Interior features vaulted ceilings, clean lines, crisp décor, granite kitchen counter tops, metal railings, unique floor plan, and contemporary flair. \$524,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



HUNTINGTON WOODS - This is another quality 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home by Bayberry Construction in one of Saline's most desired new subs. Incredible plan with two-story family room, kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters, and eleven-foot ceilings, luxury master suite, 3-car garage, and walkout basement. \$519,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - This 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home is absolutely perfect. Gorgeous home featuring spacious acre lot, extensive landscaping, 3-car garage, hardwood floors, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, screened porch, luxury master suite and finished basement. You will not find a finer home. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST - Wonderful 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This custom-built home is loaded with desirable features. Large backyard, huge deck, oversized living room and dining room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floors, 9-ft. ceilings, gorgeous kitchen, and luxury master suite. \$467,500. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Fabulous new 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home by Bayberry Construction in Huntington Woods. Incredible package of features and amenities with cherry cabinets, granite counters, 9' ceilings, walkout basement, and 3-car garage. Wow. \$459,144. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LOHR LAKE VILLAGE - Stunning 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath custom-built home on one of the most beautiful wooded lots in the area. This striking home features two-story entry and family room, remodeled kitchen with cherry floor and granite island, den, luxury master suite, and 3-car garage. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - This is another wonderful home by Bayberry Construction in Huntington Woods, Saline's newest custom home community. Hard-to-find ranch floor plan features spacious great room, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, and luxury master suite. \$422,164. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR - 3-bedroom, 2 1/4-bath end unit in Ann Arbor's newest urban condo development Kessler Commons. Enjoy striking design and décor with cherry kitchen, 2-car attached garage, luxury master suite, and flex-use 3rd floor. \$384,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



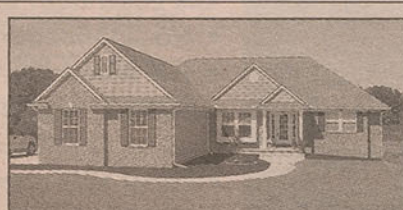
LANDSDOWNE - Very rare find. All brick 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a private cul-de-sac lot walking distance to Lawton Elementary. Wonderful home with oversized living room, family room with fireplace, screened porch, study, and master suite with attached bath. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE - This is the perfect country property. Gorgeous Cape Cod-style home with wrap-around front porch nestled in a picturesque 2.5-acre wooded setting. Like-new 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR - One of six brand-new 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath condos in Kessler Commons. Enjoy wonderful urban living walking distance to UM Hospital, central campus, and downtown. Superior design and features with attached 2-car garage, custom kitchens, designer décor, luxury master suite, and flex-use 3rd floor. \$339,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE - Incredible 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a peaceful lot in Sandhill Estates. Beautiful interior décor highlights this very nice home. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with maple cabinets, luxury master suite, 3-car garage, and walkout basement. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



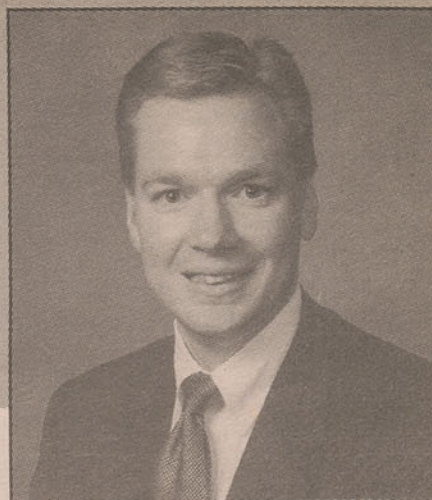
ANN ARBOR - Rare Find!! Stunning contemporary on a private, wooded one-acre lot. Unique features and amenities throughout include vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, large family room with fireplace, and finished basement. This home will not last long. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE - Another super new construction by Harris Homes in Sandhill Estates. Wonderful design featuring 2-story great room, first-floor master suite, and 3-car garage. You will love this country sub just minutes to I-94. \$280,674. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

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Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for almost 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers. No assistants! Not one. When you hire Matt, you get Matt.

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TIMSLAKE – Stunning “Architectural Digest” home located on one of the most beautiful lots you will find. Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired design with the highest level of quality, design, and materials. Maple kitchen with granite counters, maple built-ins in family room, luxury master suite, and walkout lower level with rec room and bar. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CENTENNIAL PARK – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home overlooking the pond in one of Saline’s most desired subs. Incredible flair inside and out with professional landscaping, stunning interior spaces, and beautiful décor. Luxury first-floor master suite, two-story living room, back stair, and bonus room. \$695,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SAGINAW HILLS – This custom-built home by Dion sits on one of the most beautiful settings available. Enjoy gorgeous pond views from this premier setting on Ann Arbor’s west side. Oversized living room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen, study, beautiful master suite with view of water, and finished basement. \$619,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



HAMBURG TWP – Gorgeous custom-built home with a stately hilltop setting. The finest materials used with extensive landscaping including a waterfall. Interior includes custom cherry kitchen with granite counters, hardwood floors, dramatic spaces, and tons of moldings. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



PLEASANT LAKE – This lakefront home has one of the finest views you will find anywhere in the Ann Arbor area. Breathtaking panoramic views of Pleasant Lake from this completely updated home. New kitchen, Corian countertops, great room with stone fireplace, and extensive decking, landscaping, dock, etc. \$479,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



WALSH FARMS – Incredible offering by JR Schultz in one of Dexter’s most desired subs. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home is the first offering in a new section of the neighborhood and features a gorgeous 1.5-acre site, cherry kitchen, granite island, sun room, and first-floor master suite. \$475,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



CLEAR LAKE – Gorgeous property overlooking all sports Clear Lake. Wonderful open design with vaulted ceiling in the great room, cherry kitchen, loft, and finished walkout basement. Extensive decking and wooded lot – this is a great lakefront home. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SHA ESTATES – This is a super 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home on private cul-de-sac lot. Gracious custom-built home has great features inside and out. Oversized backyard, large deck, great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury master suite with one of the largest closets you will find, and finished walkout basement. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE – Eye-catching 4-bedroom, 3½-bath, 2-year-old ranch in Sandhill Estates. This home is loaded with features and amenities. Great room with huge picture window, stone fireplace, custom-built oak bookcases, custom maple kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS – You will be impressed by this move-in ready 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a private lot in one of the area’s most desired subs. Wonderful feel inside and out with gorgeous landscaping, perfect décor, great room with vaulted ceiling, large kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$369,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER – Gracious 4-bedroom, 2½-bath 2,700 sq. ft. colonial on 9 gorgeous acres just outside of town. Enjoy total seclusion and privacy in this custom-built home nestled in a former tree farm. Features include 3-car garage, maple kitchen, slate floor, luxury master suite, and unfinished bonus room. \$359,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS – Very rare opportunity. Completely updated all-brick ranch on 3.5 manicured acres in Pittsfield Twp. Gorgeous interior with open kitchen, large formal living room, family room and all-glass sunroom. \$349,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LINCOLN SCHOOLS – Newly-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home in Lincoln Pines. Great-room-style house with vaulted ceilings, first-floor master suite, and view out basement. Wonderful features including oak flooring, 9’ ceilings, and top-quality construction. \$279,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YPSILANTI – This is an absolutely gorgeous home loaded with character inside and out. Large front porch and oversized fenced yard. Interior features oak floors, original woodwork, large rooms, back stair, and finished basement. \$229,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

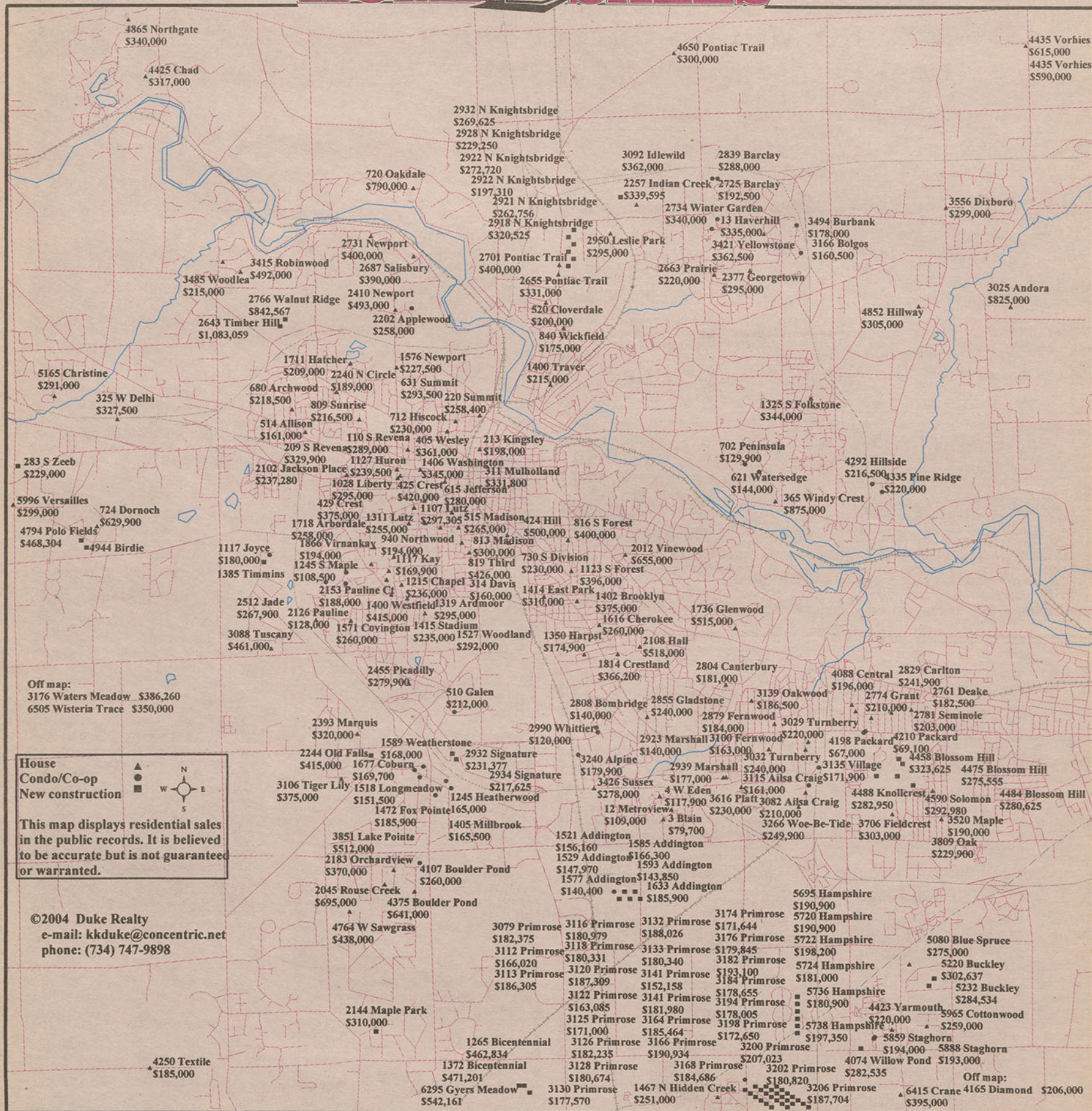


HAMBURG TWP – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in the Dexter School District. Home is in move-in condition with a large living room, master suite with attached bath, and huge deck. Additional workshop is perfect for your hobby and features concrete floor, heat, and bath. \$219,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – CHELSEA – Attention first-time home buyers. Super sharp 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch within walking distance to downtown Chelsea. Great opportunity with many nice features including fresh paint, partially finished basement, and fenced backyard. \$179,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

OCTOBER 2004 HOME SALES



Sales of new homes in the Ann Arbor school district are down 9 percent in the first ten months of 2004 compared to the same period last year. Most of the decline reflects the construction of fewer single-family homes. That long-term trend is also evident in the growing market share of relatively affordable condominiums, which account for 54 percent of the new arrivals this year. These practical little nests sold for a median price (half cost less, half cost more) of just \$188,000.

Much of the action in affordable single-family homes simply retreated to cheaper terrain. Neighboring school districts with lower land prices are now the locus of growth in single-family subdivisions. Ypsilanti, Dexter, and Superior townships are attracting builders like Guenther, Norfolk, and Bloomfield Hills-based Pulte, which describes itself as the largest and most diversified home builder in the nation. These companies are putting up new housing at prices that many middle-market buyers

find within reach. While not shown on our map, these outlying developments have acted as a governor on the price appreciation of similar single-family homes inside Ann Arbor.

In the Ann Arbor school district, higher-density condominiums are now the standard solution to relatively high land prices. Projects such as Northside Ridge on Knightsbridge and Rosewood Village on Primrose demonstrate how developers achieve higher densities without resorting

to expensive high-rise construction. On smaller, pricey downtown lots, however, mid-rise and high-rise projects may be the most practical way to attract the interest of middle-market housing developers, absent government subsidies or private philanthropy. While expensive land is not necessarily harder to develop into housing than distant, cheaper land, the market achieves a profitable solution through economies of scale.

—Kevin Duke

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www.AnnArborHouses.com (2411742)



ONCE IN A LIFETIME—an opportunity comes along like this. Masterpiece estate on 9.3 acres. Ann Arbor schools, low Scio taxes! Built in 1923, this exquisite European style Tudor home with Carriage house apartment, 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths, 4-car garage. Original antique fixtures. Close to everything. Land is splitable and buildable. \$1,100,000. **TAMMY STONE 734-649-4443** www.TammyStone.com (2406326)



GORGEOUS MODEL HOME—in lovely Ashford Village subdivision now available. Ann Arbor Schools, low Pittsfield Twp. taxes! This immaculate 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home is waiting for you! Open floor plan, spacious family room w/fireplace, large sunny eat-in kitchen, 2½-car garage. Home sits on 1/3 acre with a huge back yard. \$269,900. **TAMMY STONE 734-649-4443** www.TammyStone.com (2410526)



IN "THE PRESERVE"—Dexter's most prestigious neighborhood. Sited on 1.33+/- acres, this 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home with finished lower level is an entertaining delight! Views of Crystal Lake, inlaid cherry floors, wrought iron railings, tumbled marble, cherry, stainless and granite kitchen. Rear deck, screened porch and much more. \$1,325,000. **FELICE FERREL 734-223-4455** www.FeliceFergel.com (2403404)



NEW LISTING—nifty single family west-side home currently used as a duplex rental. 2 baths, hardwood floors, clean and ready for new owners. Great neighborhood, super location close to all. Easy walk to downtown, Farmers Market and campus. Close to schools, bus lines and easy access to expressways. \$274,000. **DOUG WEBB 734-769-6742** DougHomes@aol.com (2412003)



WONDERFUL WARNER CREEK HOME—lives to the back with kitchen/breakfast nook/family room opening to large back yard through new French doors onto new 16x32 Trex deck. Formal dining room, first floor study, 4-bedrooms, 2.5-baths, basement with rec area. Cul-de-sac location, Saline Schools, easy access to expressways. \$278,900. **DOUG WEBB 734-769-6742** DougHomes@aol.com (2410749)



MAGNIFICENT SALINE MANSION—One of Michigan's finest Second Empire homes is available for sale. This Saline treasure was designed by J.J. Smith in 1873 for a prominent banker's family. The grandeur and elegance of this 15 room home, with 4 full and 2 half baths, has been preserved and appropriately updated. The parlor, sitting, dining and library rooms boast ornate plasterwork, gold leafed mouldings, pocket doors, 10 foot ceilings, tall bay windows and dramatic entry doors. The updated kitchen includes granite countertops, custom cherry cabinetry, Butler's pantry, restored oak floors, and a cozy breakfast nook. Rich butternut, tulip, walnut, oak and mahogany woods add warmth and beauty to the interior. The master bedroom, with 9-foot ceilings and tulip wood floor, is enhanced by the spectacular grand master bath. Three other classic bedrooms, two with original hand painted day sinks, have birds-eye views of the lush gardens and the 2 acre grounds. These are only a few of the charming features of this incredible property. \$1,100,000 **THE PEARSALL TEAM 734-741-1000** www.SpecializingInResults.com (2409743)



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PRIVATE WOODED SETTING with protected nature area in Stonebridge. This large custom ranch-style home offers Pittsfield Twp. taxes, view of the golf course and a finished lower level. \$849,000. **Nancy Harrison, 320-2211 / 662-8600.** (ST2411191)



POLO FIELDS – Gorgeous home with first floor master suite. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and 2,307 sq. ft. For photos, maps, and info, go to www.GregJohnsonRealEstate.com. \$464,900. **Greg Johnson, 646-5957 / 662-8600.** (DO2405486)



PRICE REDUCED. Westside 3-bedroom house on quiet cul de sac within walking distance to Eberwhite School. This house has hardwood floors under carpeting, a rec area/bar, and optional 4th bedroom in basement. \$221,000. **Jean Crandell, 395-8567 / 662-8600.** (RE2408000)



SILVER LAKE ACCESS. Terrific 3-bedroom, 2½-bath, brick ranch with completely remodeled kitchen and baths, living room with brick fireplace, huge finished basement, 2½-car garage. All-sports Silver Lake. \$247,000. **Linda Tenza, 276-0200 / 662-8600.** (SI2410939)



STONEBRIDGE GOLFING COMM. Overlooking the 12th green. Four-bedroom contemporary with first-floor master, 4½ baths, vaulted great room, granite counters, full, finished lower level. \$599,900. **John Romagnoli, 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (ST2407560)



DOWNTOWN PENTHOUSE. Big city ambience. Panoramic views. Two bedrooms, library, gourmet kitchen, glass tiles, heated floors, security system. Two terraces. \$1,115,000. **Sharon Beal, 395-7351 / 662-8600.** (FI2411244)



NEW LISTING. Lovely L-shaped ranch in the heart of Stonebridge Golfing Community overlooking the 6th green. Open floor plan with huge great room and first-floor den. Full finished lower level. \$569,900. **John Romagnoli, 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (ST2411334)



VISIT WWW.10261RIDGELINE.COM to view this magnificent 3,200-sq.-ft., 4-bedroom, 2½-bath quality-built home on one acre. Fabulous home for entertaining—shows like a model! \$549,900. **Barbara Gaines, 439-8405 / 662-8600.** (RI2402410)



GO TO WWW.47757BELMONT.COM for more details on this contemporary 4-bedroom brick home. Enjoy maple cabinetry, hardwood floors, and easy-care ceramic tile in baths. \$289,900. **Barbara Gaines, 439-8405 / 662-8600.** (BE2408488)



3,300-SQ.-FT. CAPE COD with 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, custom hickory cabinets, hardwood floors, wet bar, see-through stone fireplace, finished walkout, 3-car garage, and more. \$399,500. **Jan Raupp, 248-981-6348.** (LO24103895)



PRIME NORTHEAST Ann Arbor location within walking distance to schools, Pfizer and shopping. Newer roof, windows and furnace. Hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, fenced yard. \$299,900. **Roger Pritzel, 395-7821 / 662-8600.** (NI2408505)



SPARKLING CLEAN with cathedral ceiling, skylight, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, garage and huge deck in popular Dexter Crossing sub near village. Minutes to Ann Arbor. \$244,900. **Gail Sinelli, 320-0828 / 662-8600.** (CA2410677)



TRUE CREAM PUFF! Immaculate updated condo with new kitchen, new windows, lovely deck. Just move in! Excellent location. \$174,900. **Viviane Shammas, 645-4814 / 662-8600.** (BU2410803)



GREAT LOCATION. Two-story end unit in Greenhills Condo development with 3 bedrooms and 2½ baths. Across from pool, tennis courts, and clubhouse. King Elementary. Immediate occupancy! \$239,900. **John Romagnoli, 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (GR2411228)



WALK TO DICKEN ELEM. Unique 5-level brick home with two-tiered deck overlooking Dicken Woods. Three/four bedrooms, 2½ baths, updated oak kitchen, hardwood floors, very clean. \$299,900. **John Romagnoli, 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (ST2410757)



SUMPTER TOWNSHIP. Belleville Schools. 16 acres. Vacant land for your private build or to split. \$160,000. **PJ Moffett, 645-6145 / 662-8600.** (DU2407744)

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DISCOVER

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Red Belly Board Shop	45		



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Ann Arbor Academy	annarboracademy.org
Ann Arbor Art Center	annarborartcenter.org
Ann Arbor's 107 One	annarbor107one.com
Arbor Farms	arborfarms.com
Arborweb Classifieds	arborweb.com/classindex.html
Christian Montessori	cmsaa.org
Common Grill	commongrill.com
Delux Drapery	deluxdrapery.com
The Earle	theearle.com
Emerson School	emerson-school.org
Esquire Interiors	esquireinteriors.com
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1-800-GOT-JUNK	1800gotjunk.com
Great Harvest Bread Company	greatharvest.com
Grizzly Peak Brewing Company	michiganmenu.com
King's Chosen	kingschosen.com
Kiwanis Club	aakiwanis.org
Materials Unlimited	materialsunlimited.com
Real Estate One	realestateone.com
Summers-Knoll School	summers-knoll.org
Three Chairs Company	threechairs.com
UMS	ums.org

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& Joyous Holiday Season*



From all of us at the

Ann Arbor Observer

BACK PAGE

I SPY

by Sally Bjork

This building will cease to exist in two thousand six.

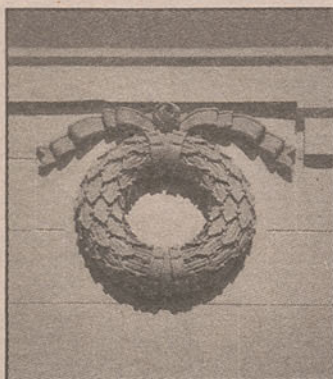
To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and the photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

November's I Spy featured the U-M's Alumni Memorial Hall, which has housed the U-M Museum of Art since 1946. The 1907-1910 Beaux Arts-style building will soon receive an addition that will more than double the size of the museum and provide space for extra gal-



leries, conservation labs, collections storage, classrooms, art-making facilities, and more. The design, by Brad Cloepfil of Oregon's Allied Works Architecture, varies greatly from the original style—and has stirred strong sentiment locally. "Yikes!" exclaimed entrant Adrienne Licata. "The design is cool, but only as an independent building." Lakshmi Narayanan, though, said it might work: "I love that building and thought that the addition may look really bad," she wrote, "but felt better once I saw a model in the museum lobby."

We received sixteen correct entries, all from Ann Arbor. Paulette Polaczyk won our random drawing; we'll be sending her a copy of Jonathan L. Marwil's *History of Ann Arbor*.



FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

"I see that only sixty-five people identified the Fake Ad [in October]," wrote Ann Arbor's Cynthia Radcliffe in her entry to the November contest. "I hope that you don't think that only sixty-five people are interested in this feature. Many times I find the ad but don't bother to submit it. Other times I don't find the ad but then enjoy checking the next month to see what it was."

Radcliffe has a good point. Here at Fake Ad Central, considering the time and effort it takes to enter the contest, we assume that for every reader who enters, another 999 actually look for the Fake Ad. We base our formula on the likelihood that we will enter the contests we hear about every day.

If we're right, 158,000 people must have participated in our little contest this month, as 158 of you took the time to send in your answers correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Orwe Bakeries on p. 78 of the November Observer. Ken Fink of Ann Arbor was our winner. "I've been entering for eight or nine years every month," he wrote. "My ship has finally come in." Fink is taking his gift certificate to Zanzibar restaurant.

To enter the contest for December, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. The magic word *arborweb*, the name of the Observer's website, is always hidden in the Fake Ad (in November we strung it across "... Your Best Carb. Orwe Bakeries ..."). The winner of our random drawing will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

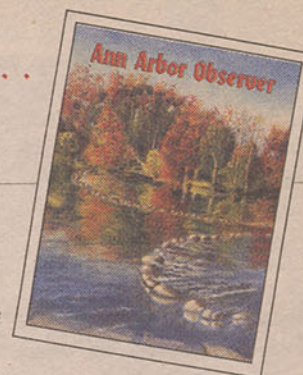


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Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Fax: (734) 769-4950. E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Friday, December 10, will be eligible for the December drawings.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 73 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 73.

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Jim Dailakis, Dec. 2-4
- Comic Lewis Black, Dec. 3
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 7 & 21
- Comic Elvira Kurt, Dec. 9-11
- Neutral Zone Poetry Night in Ann Arbor, Dec. 10
- Comic John Heffron, Dec. 16-18
- "Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged" (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 28-31
- Comic Ross Bennett, Dec. 31

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Hilario Duran Trio (jazz), Dec. 2
- Joe Jencks, Jen Cass, & Justin Roth (singer-songwriters), Dec. 2
- Ryan Mackstaller New Quintet (jazz), Dec. 3
- Dan Hall (singer-songwriter), Dec. 3
- RFD Boys and Lare Williams & New Direction (bluegrass), Dec. 3
- Ekoostik Hookah (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 3
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- Benny Golson (jazz), Dec. 4
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 5
- Charlie Robison (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- B. B. King (blues), Dec. 8
- Kris Delmhurst (singer-songwriter), Dec. 8
- Jane Siberry (singer-songwriter), Dec. 9
- Bill Heid Trio (jazz), Dec. 9
- Jordan Knight (dance-pop), Dec. 9
- Bill Charlap (jazz), Dec. 10
- Close Embrace of the Earth and Sublingual (jazz), Dec. 11
- Juliana Hatfield (rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter), Dec. 11
- II-V-I Orchestra (jazz), Dec. 12
- Holiday Ragtime Bash, Dec. 12
- NoMo (avant Afrobeat), Dec. 14
- Reverend Horton Heat (rockabilly), Dec. 16
- Maura O'Connell (Irish American chanteuse), Dec. 18
- Scott Morgan's Powertrane (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 18
- Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace concert with several local bands & singer-songwriters, Dec. 19
- Perry Robinson & Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial band (worldbeat fusion), Dec. 19
- Easy Street Swingtet (jazz), Dec. 31
- Thornetta Davis (R&B), Dec. 31
- Saturday Looks Good to Me (pop-rock), Dec. 31
- The Bang! (garage rock), Dec. 31
- Todd Snider (singer-songwriter), Dec. 31

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 10
- Finvarra's Wren (Celtic), Dec. 17
- "Crossroads Ceili" (Celtic), Dec. 27 & 28



Boychoir of Ann Arbor



Sacred Song



Ann Arbor Youth Chorale

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 1-5, 8-12, & 15-19
- *Jesus Cake, Fat-Pants, and the Theory of Relativity* (Performance Network Mosh Pit Theater), Dec. 1-4
- *The Gondoliers* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 2-5
- *The Santaland Diaries and Season's Greetings* (Luree Productions), Dec. 2-5 & 9-12
- *She Loves Me* (Performance Network), Dec. 2-5, 9-12, 16-19, 23, 24, & 26
- Bert Hornback reads *A Christmas Carol* (tentative), Dec. 3
- *Swan Lake* (EMU Music Department), Dec. 3
- *Nutcracker* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 4 & 5
- *Vagabond Tales* (Barrage), Dec. 8
- *The Rover* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 9-12
- *Improv Got Run Over by a Reindeer* (Pangea Project Improv Troupe), Dec. 9-11 & 16-18
- *The Tempest* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 10-12
- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theater of Michigan), Dec. 10-12
- *Winter Wonderland* (Dance Gallery Studio), Dec. 10
- *Little Red Riding Hood and Hamlet* (Children's Russian Club), Dec. 11
- *The Snow Queen in Seven Stories* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 11, 12, 18, & 19
- *Writing Christmas* (Father Gabriel Richard High School), Dec. 17-19
- *Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 17-19
- *Babes in Toyland* (Comic Opera Guild), Dec. 18

Classical & Religious Music

- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 4
- Sacred Song, Dec. 4
- University Choral Union *Messiah*, Dec. 4 & 5
- Chaverim B'Shirim chorus, Dec. 5
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 7
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 10
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 11
- Treetown Community Chorus, Dec. 11
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 11
- Vox Early Music Ensemble, Dec. 11
- Mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter, Dec. 11
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 12
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 12
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 12
- American Chorale of Sacred Music, Dec. 12
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 12
- Measure for Measure men's chorus & the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 12
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 18

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *The Big Friendly Giant* (EMU Theater of the Young), Dec. 2-5
- Main Street Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 5
- *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping* (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 5
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 11
- Storyteller LaRon Williams, Dec. 18

Films

- Michigan Theater Cinema Slam, Dec. 15

This year's usual seasonal feast of vocal music includes concerts by the Boychoir of Ann Arbor at St. Andrew's on Dec. 11, by the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale at Concordia University on Dec. 11, and by Sacred Song at Genesis of Ann Arbor on Dec. 4.

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Holiday bazaars & sales, Dec. 2-5, 7, 11, 18
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 3-6
- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 3-5
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 3-5
- Dexter's Victorian Christmas, Dec. 4 & 11
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum "Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 4 & 5
- Holiday Parade in Saline, Dec. 4
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 5
- Christmas at the Rentschler Farm Museum, Dec. 11 & 12
- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 18
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Lectures & Readings

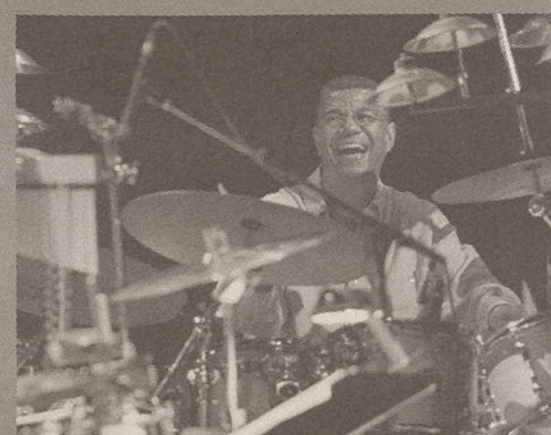
- Poet Mark Doty, Dec. 1
- Fiction writer Brenda Flanagan, Dec. 6
- Poet Matthew Thorburn, Dec. 7
- Poet Mark Yakich, Dec. 9

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Natural Awakenings Raw and Living Foods Potluck, Dec. 12

04 05 December

126th UMS Season



Handel's Messiah

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone, conductor
Ilana Davidson, soprano
Susan Platts, contralto
Richard Clement, tenor
Brett Polegato, baritone

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 8 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2 PM
Hill Auditorium

The UMS Choral Union, with Jerry Blackstone as its permanent music director, returns to Hill Auditorium for its annual performances of Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. This glorious work was composed in only 21 days when Handel was 56 years old as part of a series of concerts that the composer was giving in Dublin to benefit various charities. The profits from that first concert in 1742 were distributed between two hospitals and a debtor's prison. Although the premiere was largely considered successful, the oratorio's popularity blossomed only after Handel's death and is now one of the most celebrated works of all time.

Supported by The Carl and Isabelle Brauer Fund.
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"Home for the Holidays"

Anne Sofie von Otter, mezzo-soprano

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Following the enormously popular Boston Pops Christmas Concerts in 2002 and 2003, UMS is delighted to present Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter for an evening of festive holiday music, including some rare Scandinavian gems. Her most recent appearance included a concert with Les Musiciens du Louvre in April 2002, the final Choral Union Series concert before Hill Auditorium closed for nearly two years. This two-time Grammy winner will be joined by an ensemble of eight musicians, including longtime collaborator Bengt Forsberg, for this special, intimate concert. This consummate performer is generally considered one of the finest singers of her generation, equally at home on the opera stage, concert platform, or in recital. This concert features both familiar and unknown songs, united by the common theme of Christmas.

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Save the Date for Great Winter Performances!

January 05

12	Wed	Sam Shalabi: <i>The Osama Project</i>
13	Thu	Stephanie Blythe, mezzo-soprano
14	Fri	D.J. Spooky's <i>Rebirth of a Nation</i>
16-17	Sun-Mon	Ronald K. Brown/Evidence
26	Wed	Lahti Symphony Orchestra Osmo Vänskä, conductor Louis Lortie, piano
30	Sun	Audra McDonald

February 05

5-6	Sat-Sun	New York Philharmonic Lorin Maazel, music director
10	Thu	Netherlands Wind Ensemble
11-12	Fri-Sat	Rennie Harris Puremovement: <i>Facing Mekka</i>
13	Sun	Michigan Chamber Players
18	Fri	Soweto Gospel Choir
19	Sat	Jack DeJohnette Latin Project
20	Sun	Takács Quartet: Complete Bartók String Quartet Cycle
21-23	Mon-Wed	Kodo Drummers
25	Fri	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> A Semi-Staged Concert Performance

March 05

5	Sat	Dan Zanes and Friends Family Performance
9	Wed	Florestan Trio
10	Thu	Fred Hersch Ensemble: <i>Leaves of Grass</i>
10-13	Thu-Sun	Robert Lepage's <i>The Far Side of the Moon</i>
12	Sat	Oslo Philharmonic André Previn, conductor Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin
19	Sat	Sir James Galway, flute and Lady Jeanne Galway, flute

April 05

1-2	Fri-Sat	Emio Greco PC
2	Sat	UMS Choral Union: Haydn's <i>Creation</i>
8	Fri	Trio Mediaeval
9	Sat	Malouma
10	Sun	Songs of the Sufi Brotherhood
13	Wed	Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Ignat Solzhenitsyn, conductor and piano
14	Thu	La Capella Reial de Catalunya and Le Concert des Nations Jordi Savall, director
20	Wed	Felicity Lott, soprano and Angelika Kirchschlager, mezzo-soprano
21	Thu	John Scofield Trio and Brad Mehldau Trio
28	Thu	Jerusalem Quartet

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